272. From the archives

By Ron Klinger

Dealer West: Both vulnerable

North

- **♠** KJ
- **Y** A1083
- 954
- ♣ AKJ10

South

- **★** 843
- ♥ QJ962
- **♦** 1063
- **♣** O5

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West North East South
Pass 1♣ Pass 1♥
Pass 3♥ All Pass
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- 1. West leads ◆K: four two (low-like) six.
- 2. West continues with the \mathbf{Q} : five seven six.
- 3. West plays the ◆J: nine eight ten.
- 4. West switches to the ♠2.

Not long ago I was re-re-reading an old bridge book (*Bridge Logic*, by the late Hugh Kelsey) when a couple of newspaper clippings fell out. They are undated, but you can gauge their age, as they have yellowed quite a bit. The problem above came from a bridge column by B. J. Becker (USA).

Where is the king of hearts?

We cannot be sure of the location of the ∇K , but since we have lost three diamonds and we are bound to lose at least one spade, we should play West for the ∇K . It is far more likely that West has $\nabla K - x - x$ or $\nabla K - 7 - 5 - 4$ than East having the ∇K singleton.

What do you know about the West hand?

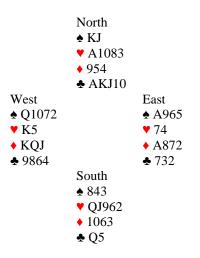
West has shown up with 6 points, the $\star K$, $\star Q$, $\star J$.

What else do you know about West?

Oh, yes, West is a passed hand, so West will not have more than 12 HCP and probably not even 12.

So if we give West the $\forall K$ and δK -Q-J, where is the ΔA ?

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West will not have the ♥K, ♦K-Q-J and the ♠A and pass initially. Therefore, if you are going to make this contract, you should play the ♠J on the ♠2. Result: nine tricks.

Incidentally, if East captures the ΔJ with the Q and returns a spade to West's ace, you know that East began with the ∇K . You will cash the ΔA and hope the K is singleton and then you will be only one down.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North

- **♦** KJ76
- **♥** A52
- ♦ K1065
- **♣** A4

South

- **♠** AQ542
- **♥** J73
- **♦** A3
- ♣ K75

North	East	South
	3♥	3♠
4♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠
4NT	Pass	5 ♠ ⁽²⁾
6 ♠	All Pass	
	4 ♥ ⁽¹⁾ 4NT	3♥ 4♥ ⁽¹⁾ Pass 4NT Pass

- (1) Strong spade raise, heart control
- (2) Two key cards plus the ♠Q

West leads the ♣3, fourth-highest. You draw trumps. East follows once and then discards two hearts. Plan the play.

Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

I bought a new fridge for my wife. Her face lit up when she opened it.

A great gift: *The Power of Pass* (by Harold Schogger and Ron Klinger). \$A25.00 Available from Suzie Klinger, post free until 2021: email suzie@ronklingerbridge.com or telephone 0411 229 705.