

September 5, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

"The Power of Pass" is a new book by many-times champion and prolific bridge author Ron Klinger with Harold Schogger from the UK. It contains one primary message: "We bid too much". Some of the headings from the 36 chapters are: 'Do not bid the same values twice'; 'Do not compete a part-score hand to the 4-level'; 'Do not compete at a level higher than you wanted to bid initially'; 'The opponents have stopped at the 2-level. Partner balances and they bid to the 3-level. Do not punish partner by bidding again'; and 'Pass if an opponent opens 1NT and you were about to open 1NT too'.

This hand was played at six tables in the 2018 USA Team selection and comes from the chapter entitled 'Be pessimistic opposite a pre-emptive raise'

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| NORTH | | N/NIL VUL |
| ♠ | Q 9 6 | |
| ♥ | Q 7 5 3 | |
| ♦ | J 10 5 4 2 | |
| ♣ | 4 | |
| WEST | | EAST |
| ♠ | A K J 10 8 5 | ♠ 4 3 2 |
| ♥ | K J 2 | ♥ 10 9 |
| ♦ | - | ♦ A 9 8 3 |
| ♣ | K Q 10 5 | ♣ 9 8 6 2 |
| SOUTH | | |
| ♠ | 7 | |
| ♥ | A 8 6 4 | |
| ♦ | K Q 7 6 | |
| ♣ | A J 7 3 | |

| TABLE 1 | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| | PASS | PASS | 1D |
| DBL | 3D | PASS | 5D? |
| PASS | PASS | DBL | |
| TABLE 2 | | | |
| | PASS | PASS | 1D |
| DBL | 3D | PASS | 3H? |
| 4S | 6D? | DBL | |

If the North hand is typical for a jump-raise after a takeout double then South has no reason to bid again. The North-South results at each table were: 1 5DSX -500; 2 6DSX -300 on a mis-defence; 3 4DS +130; 4 4SW -420; 5 3SW -140; 6 4SW +50 after a club opening lead.

To repeat: "If you currently have difficulty in passing we have a remedy for you. Call it bridge aerobics if you like. Each morning, after you shower or shave or put on makeup, whichever it is you do, stand in front of the mirror and say "No bid, no bid, no bid" until you produce it regularly at the bridge table".

"The Power of Pass" retails for \$25 from The Bridge Shop, Paul Lavings Bridgegear or direct from Suzie Klinger, PO Box 140, Northbridge, NSW 1560.