

April 10 2011

1  
 ♠ AJ7  
 ♥ Q83  
 ♦ AJ10765  
 ♣ 6  
 ♠ 432  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ KQ  
 ♣ Q875432  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ AKJ1097  
 ♦ 9842  
 ♣ 109  
 ♠ KQ10986  
 ♥ 654  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ AKJ

Dealer: North

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥ 2

East has a classic weak jump overcall, South's 2S shows at least 5 spades (with 4 he would make a negative double,) North raises, South bids game.

East wins 3 hearts off the bat. What does West discard on the last two?

West should NOT be reluctant to discard from the short suit, even though the cards are honors.

West MIGHT get a diamond trick later by discarding in another suit...but not if declarer has a singleton.

Discarding the king and queen of diamonds makes it easy for East to make the killing switch.

2  
 ♠ AKJ74  
 ♥ 654  
 ♦  
 ♣ KQ1084  
 ♠ 1052  
 ♥ AKJ109  
 ♦ 943  
 ♣ AJ  
 ♠ Q86  
 ♥ Q87  
 ♦ AKQJ10  
 ♣ 65  
 ♠ 93  
 ♥ 32  
 ♦ 87652  
 ♣ 9732

Dealer: South

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	3 ♣	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠ A

South should signal encouragement on the opening lead by playing the nine. North continues spades, leading the jack on the third round. South ruffs dummy's queen. What does South lead back?

North bid clubs, but a club lead would disappoint the defense. South should pay attention to North's card led to the third trick. North led the jack. This is a SUIT-PREFERENCE signal, asking for a lead of the higher-ranking of the remaining side suits. A diamond lead sets the contract, and the North and South can trade compliments on a cooperative defense.