

May 29 2011

**1**

♠ QJ108		Dealer: South			
♥ Q7543		West	North	East	South
♦ 6					
♣ 1042					1 ♠
♠ 52	♠ 43	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
♥ 98	♥ KJ1062	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ AQ1075	♦ J98				
♣ KJ63	♣ Q87				
	♠ AK976				
	♥ A				
	♦ K432				
	♣ A95				

Opening Lead: ♥ 9

South has 2 club losers so must hold other losers to one. This is best done by ruffing 3 diamonds in dummy. But South cannot afford to lead a low trump to dummy first in order to "lead toward" the diamond king. West will win and return a trump, holding South to 2 diamond ruffs, down one.

At trick two South should lead a diamond from hand. Whoever wins can return a trump, but that still leaves 3 trumps in dummy for diamond ruffs. Making 4.

**2**

♠ Q1073		Dealer: North			
♥ 98		West	North	East	South
♦ 1052					
♣ 9762					
♠ A842	♠ 95		Pass	1 ♦	Pass
♥ A753	♥ 10642	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
♦ 74	♦ AK98	4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ AJ3	♣ KQ10				
	♠ KJ6				
	♥ KQJ				
	♦ QJ63				
	♣ 854				

Opening Lead: ♠ 3

West could also bid 3NT instead of 4H, in case his partner had raised to 2H with only 3. But East would take it back to 4H.

To make the contract West must hope that trumps are 3-2 and that West can ruff two spades in dummy. Assume West ducks the first spade and wins the spade continuation. Playing the ace of hearts followed by a low heart would be a mistake. The defense would win and lead a third heart, leaving only one trump in dummy. Down one.

West's first trump lead should be a LOW heart. If the defense wins and leads another heart, West takes the ace and then abandons trumps. West can then easily ruff two spades and take the other five winners. The defense gets only the remaining high trump. Making 4.