

Sept 18 2011

**1**

♠ KJ107	♠ 4
♥ AK73	♥ Q1098
♦ 4	♦ KJ985
♣ A652	♣ K43
♠ 6532	♠ AQ98
♥ J6	♥ 542
♦ 102	♦ AQ763
♣ QJ1097	♣ 8

Dealer: South  
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣ Q

North responds first in hearts (4-card suits up the line) and asks for aces when he hears South bid 1S.

After winning the ace of clubs, it would be a big mistake for South to play trumps. South should plan a cross-ruff. His trumps are high, so he cannot be over-ruffed. Ace of clubs, ace of diamonds, four diamond ruffs in dummy, three club ruffs in hand, one trump left in hand, and two hearts. 12 tricks.

But South must play his heart winners first! Otherwise West will discard a heart on the third diamond, and can then ruff the second heart honor.

Lesson: Cash side-suit winners before embarking on a cross-ruff.

**2**

♠ 52	♠ 1084
♥ 97	♥ K103
♦ Q1083	♦ K9764
♣ J10765	♣ A2
♠ QJ3	♠ AK976
♥ AQJ842	♥ 65
♦ A2	♦ J5
♣ 43	♣ KQ98

Dealer: West  
Neither Vulnerable

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

Opening Lead: ♠ 5

The defense takes the first three tricks with AK of spades and a spade ruff. West must avoid a club loser.

This can be done by setting up a diamond trick. Without touching trumps, West should play ace and king of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Diamonds split 4-2, the most common split. West goes to dummy with a high trump and ruffs the fourth diamond. The fifth diamond is now good for a club discard, with a high trump as an entry. Making 4.