

# HAND 1

None Vul. Dealer North

	♠ J 8 5 ♥ 2 ♦ J T 7 4 2	
♠ A Q 9 7 4 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A 5	<b>W N E S</b> 1H P 1S P 2S P 4S AP	♠ K T 3 2 ♥ K Q T 9 8 6 ♦ K 6
	♠ 6 ♥ A J 4 ♦ Q 9 8 3	

South lead the H2, the suit Dummy opened the bidding, which always smells of a singleton. Wary of this fate East should be able to foresee the impending play. HA, H ruff, Club to Ace and another H ruff to down the contract. How does South know to return Clubs? Why North provided a suit preference with the size of the card sent over to be ruffed, low for lower suit (clubs) and high for higher suit (diamonds). Armed with this information Declarer need only make it seem to South that the Heart return is high and does so by concealing the H3 and playing H5 trick one and H7 next making it appear as though North was returning the 4 from an original holding of A43 and thus requesting a Diamond allowing the contract to be made.

## HAND 2

N/S Vul. Dealer East

	♠ 4 ♥ J 8 7 4 ♦ T 9 8 2																					
♠ A Q ♥ 5 3 ♦ A 6 3	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th></th><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1S</td><td></td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>2C</td><td>P</td><td>2S</td><td></td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>4S</td><td>AP</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>		W	N	E	S			1S		P	2C	P	2S		P	4S	AP				♠ K 7 6 5 3 2 ♥ K Q T ♦ K J 7 4
	W	N	E	S																		
		1S		P																		
2C	P	2S		P																		
4S	AP																					
	♠ J T 9 8 ♥ A 9 6 2 ♦ Q 5																					

South leads a trump. How should declarer play?

Whether trumps are 3-2 or 4-1, you clearly cannot afford to ruff the third round of hearts in dummy. You therefore need to play hearts for one loser if possible and with limited entries to dummy you must start on them right away.

If declarer leads a heart to his king, a smooth duck by South will leave declarer with a second round guess that he is likely to get wrong. To make things more difficult for South, declarer should play the queen of hearts – it is harder for South to duck this since South might hold the king. (It would look silly to allow declarer to score a heart trick with Qx or Q-J doubleton facing two small.)

If South wins the first heart and continue trumps, declarer should win in dummy and take a heart finesse. Whether this wins or loses, declarer will have discovered how many losers he has in the suit, which will be important later.

Assuming declarer got the hearts right (with or without help), he will know that he can afford one diamond loser but not two by the time he has to breach that suit. If he had to play the suit for no loser, he would need to find North with Qxx. Able to afford one loser, he can afford a safety play – cash the ace and king and if the queen has not appeared lead towards the jack. This still produces the required three tricks whenever North holds the queen but crucially avoids a second loser when South has a doubleton queen.



### HAND 3

E/W Game. Dealer South

	♠ 9 8 2 ♥ A 7 6 2 ♦ T 8 3																									
♠ J T 7 3 ♥ 9 4 3 ♦ 9 5 4	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td><b>W</b></td><td><b>N</b></td><td><b>E</b></td><td><b>S</b></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1D</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>1H</td><td>P</td><td></td><td>2N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>3N</td><td>AP</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>						1D		P	1H	P		2N		P	3N	AP				♠ A Q 4 ♥ K 8 5 ♦ A 7 6
	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>																						
				1D																						
P	1H	P		2N																						
P	3N	AP																								
	♠ K 6 5 ♥ Q J T ♦ K Q J 2																									

Lead S3

It is normal for East, in 3rd hand position, to play their highest card.

Since East can see that West has no possible outside entries they therefore force things with the SQ.

Declarer, afraid the SAJx will lie behind him, must win the SK and hope the heart finesse is on – if so Declarer loses only 3 spades and a diamond based on the 4th best lead of the 3.

When the heart finesse loses, declarer goes down 1. If East rose with SA at trick 1, declarer would have held up the SK until the 3rd round and would have made the contract.

## HAND 4

Game All. Dealer West

	♠ AJ92 ♥ T73 ♦ AQJ8	
♠ - ♥ AJ6 ♦ 9654	<b>W N E S</b> 1C 2S 3C 4S AP	♠ K64 ♥ KQ54 ♦ 73
	♠ JT8753 ♥ 985 ♦ KT2	

West leads the C10. How should declarer play?

With the spade finesse almost certain to fail, it looks like the defenders will be able to get in to cash their heart winners before you can take your discard on dummy's long diamond.

One option is to hope East holds three or more diamonds and only a doubleton SK, but that chance disappears when you play a trump and West shows out. You will now need East to follow to four rounds of diamonds – unlikely as it is likely West would have bid with such extreme shape.

What you really need is to lose a trick to East's SK and have him NOT switch to hearts. Did you remember to go up with the CQ at trick one? Ask how you would have played with a doubleton heart and A-x of clubs. Wouldn't you have tried the CQ from dummy at trick one?

Of course, East should not be fooled by this – he needs to make two heart tricks anyway, so he should play the HK to get a count of that suit when he wins his trump trick. Having said that, you would be amazed how many Easts will first try to cash their 'sure' winner in clubs.