

## 224. A case of déjà vu

By *Ron Klinger*

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
(1) 15-17 points			

What would you lead as West from:

♠ AQ109  
♥ QJ32  
♦ 2  
♣ Q974

Today's deals come from Session 4 of the 2017 Spingold (USA Open Teams) Round of 16 match between [MITTELMAN](#) and [NICKELL](#).

Board 56: Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

		North		
		♠ 765		
		♥ K108		
		♦ 10743		
		♣ A85		
West			East	
♠ AQ109			♠ K842	
♥ QJ32			♥ 65	
♦ 2			♦ A65	
♣ Q974			♣ J632	
		South		
		♠ J3		
		♥ A974		
		♦ KQJ98		
		♣ K10		
West	North	East	South	
<i>Amoils</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	
2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	Pass	1NT	
		3♣	All Pass	

(1) Clubs + a major

North led the ♣5. South's ♠K won and back came the ♣10 to the ♠A. North shifted to the ♦10, ace. After ♥5 to the queen and king, North continued with the ♦3: five – jack – ♣Q. Declarer played the ♠10 to the ♠K and the ♥6: seven – jack – eight. Declarer made nine tricks, East-West +110.

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT

West led the ♥2: ten – five – four. Declarer knocked out the ♦A. East switched to spades and the defenders took four spade tricks. Declarer made eight tricks, +120 and 6 Imps to [MITTELMAN](#).

When the deal was replayed in a BBO game, Jessica Brake (S) also opened 1NT, all pass. I was West and also led the ♥2: eight – six – four. South knocked out the ♦A and East returned the ♥5. Declarer won and had three hearts, four diamonds and two clubs, 9 tricks, East-West, –150 and the bottom result out of the three tables.

I could have led a spade and held declarer to eight tricks, but who would lead from A-Q-10-9 against 1NT?

This was the very next deal:

Board 57: Dealer East : North-South vulnerable

		North	
		♠ J1087	
		♥ 87	
		♦ 986	
		♣ KJ97	
West		East	
♠ Q62		♠ 943	
♥ AQ109		♥ K63	
♦ A754		♦ J2	
♣ 42		♣ Q8653	
		South	
		♠ AK5	
		♥ J542	
		♦ KQ103	
		♣ A10	

*(Directions changed for convenience)*

East passed and this time I opened 1NT as South, all pass. The answer to the question, ‘Who would lead from A-Q-10-9 against 1NT?’, the answer (yesterday’s problem) is Susan Humphries, West above. Noting the benefit of the spade lead from A-Q-10-9 on the preceding hand, she led the ♥Q against 1NT. That won and she continued with the ♥9 to the ♥K. Jessica Brake (E) returned the ♥6: jack – ace – ♦6. West cashed the ♥10 and switched to the ♣4: nine – queen – ace.

The ♦3 to the ♦9 was taken by the ♦J. East switched to the ♠4, ace. After ♦K to the ♦A, I had seven tricks for +90. That was again a bottom board compared to the results at the other two tables.

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Amoils</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT

West led the ♦5: nine – jack – king. South returned the ♦3 to the ♦8, winning and the ♦6: ♣3 – ♦Q – ♦A. West shifted to the ♣4: seven – queen – ace. South made two spades, three diamonds and four clubs, 9 tricks, +150.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	1♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) Artificial, 16+ points

(2) Artificial, 0-7 points

(3) 16-18 points

West led the ♦4: nine – jack – king. The ♦Q won trick 2, followed by the ♦3: ace – eight – ♣6. West exited with the ♦7: ♥7 – ♠3 – ♦10. Declarer played the ♥5!: nine – eight – six. West switched to the ♣2: seven – queen – ace and South had the same nine tricks as at the other table, +150, no swing.

Quite surprising to find two consecutive deals where the best lead against 1NT is from an A-Q-10-9 suit.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass
?			

(1) Natural, forcing to game

(2) Strong, slam interest

What would you do next as West with:

♠ AJ9654

♥ 3

♦ AKQ7

♣ 97

**Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?**

*Demonstrative definition humour: At the end of the day, a cliché walks into a bar – fresh as a daisy, cute as a button and sharp as a tack.*