

231. The leader board

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

What would you lead as West from:

♠ KQ8
♥ 1075
♦ 10
♣ AJ8642

This deal arose in Round of 16 in the 2017 Spingold (USA Knock-out Open Teams) in the [FIREMAN](#) vs [PIEDRA](#) match:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

	North	
	♠ AJ10432	
	♥ 86	
	♦ AK976	
	♣ --	
West		East
♠ KQ8		♠ 65
♥ 1075		♥ A32
♦ 10		♦ 85432
♣ AJ8642		♣ 1095
	South	
	♠ 97	
	♥ KQJ94	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ KQ73	

This was yesterday's problem:

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

What would you do with the North hand?

When you bid 3♦, you showed 5+ spades and 4+ diamonds. Your hand is much freakier than that and most of the time it will be best to rebid 4♦ and ask partner to choose one of your suits. That is what one North did in the Spingold. South bid 4♠, all pass.

East led a club, king, ace, ruffed. North played ♠A and the ♠3. Declarer lost 2 spades and a heart, but had ten tricks for +420.

Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

		North		
		♠ AJ10432		
		♥ 86		
		♦ AK976		
		♣ --		
West			East	
♠ KQ8			♠ 65	
♥ 1075			♥ A32	
♦ 10			♦ 85432	
♣ AJ8642			♣ 1095	
		South		
		♠ 97		
		♥ KQJ94		
		♦ QJ		
		♣ KQ73		

At the other table, this was the recorded auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♣	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Asking for a stopper in clubs

There must be more to this auction than I comprehend – how can North not show the spades? Or did 2♦ show spades? Or has the auction been mis-recorded? However, the contract was 3NT. West made the natural lead of a low club, the ♣6: ♠2 – ♣9 – ♣K. Hoping the ♥A was with West, South played the ♥K. However, East had the ♥A, captured the ♥K and returned the ♣10. South thus lost five clubs and the ♥A, two down, East-West +100 and +11 Imps.

In today's problem on the previous page, the normal lead for West is a low club. West has 10 HCP and with the opponents in 3NT, you expect partner to have only 4-5 points most of the time. It is very optimistic to expect partner to have an entry plus a holding like Q-10-x in clubs to lead through declarer. On a club lead, East's actual holding is enough to beat 3NT. The ♣10 doubleton with East could be enough if South had ♣K-Q-x. On any lead but a club, declarer has no trouble making 3NT.

Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ KJ7652
♥ AQJ85
♦ --
♣ A7

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

Grammar humour: A verb walks into a bar, sees a beautiful noun and suggests they conjugate. The noun declines.