64. Favourable leads

By Ron Klinger

South dealer: Nil vulnerable

North

- **♠** 3
- **♥** K1032
- ♦ A865
- ♣ AKJ4

South

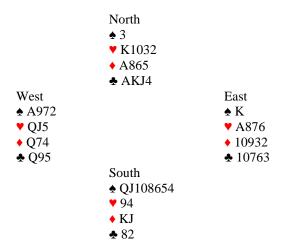
- **♦** QJ108654
- **y** 94
- ♦ KJ
- **♣** 82

West North East South 3♠
Pass 4♠ All Pass

West leads the ◆4. Plan the play.

Suppose it goes \bullet 4: five – nine – jack. You cash the \bullet K, cross to the \bullet A and play the \bullet A: three - \checkmark 4 – \bullet Q. What next?

The deal comes from a session on BBO.



South was lucky to receive the ◆4 opening lead. South would have had no chance on the ♥Q lead. Exactly why West did not choose the ♥Q is not clear.

South however did not make the most of this good fortune. After $\bullet J$, $\bullet K$, $\clubsuit A$, $\bullet A$, discarding the $\blacktriangledown 4$, South played dummy's $\spadesuit 3$. All would have been well if trumps had been 3-2, but with the 4-1 break, the play of a trump was premature. East won with the $\spadesuit K$, cashed the $\blacktriangledown A$ and continued with the $\spadesuit 10$. If South ruffed low, West would over-ruff. In practice, South ruffed high and West discarded a club. West now had $\spadesuit A$ -9-7 over South's $\spadesuit J$ -10-8-6-5 and was bound to come to two trump tricks. South was thus one down, -50.

What should South have done? After $\bullet J$, $\bullet K$, $\clubsuit A$. $\bullet A$, discarding the $\blacktriangledown 4$, continue with the $\bullet 8$ and discard the $\blacktriangledown 9$ (loser on loser play. Now there is no promotion and South makes five spades, three diamonds and two clubs.

Results: 4♠ +420 x 4, -50 x 3; 3♠ +140 and -50; 2♠ +110; North-South 3NT failing x 6.

North dealer: Nil vulnerable

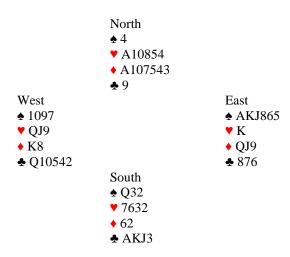
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	$2NT^{(1)}$	Pass	4♣
Pass	4 ♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) Some two-suiter
- (2) Diamonds and hearts

What would you lead as West from:

- **▲** 1097 **♥** OJ9
- ♦ K8
- ♣ Q10542

North dealer: Nil vulnerable



This was yesterday's problem #2:

With neither side vulnerable, the auction starts Pass: 1♠: Pass: 2♠, back to you. What do you do now with

4✓ A10854◆ A107543◆ 9

Options include 3\(\Delta\) Michaels, 5 hearts and a 5+ minor, or a jump to 4\(\Delta\), Leaping Michaels, showing 5+ hearts and 5+ diamonds. The problem is that either of these commits you to the 4-level. North chose 2NT, hoping to buy the hand at the 3-level or push the opponents up to 3\(\Delta\). The plan was to remove South's likely 3\(\Delta\) bid to 3\(\Delta\), showing a two-suiter in the red suits. South would be aware that North was a passed hand.

Given that North was below opening strength, there was no pressing need for South to jump to 4♣ with a balanced 10-count. North corrected to 4♦ and South showed preference with 4♥. Had West made the normal lead of the \$10, East-West would collect a spade, two hearts and a diamond. It is hard to know what prompted West to choose the \$4 lead.

South won with the \clubsuit J and discarded dummy's \spadesuit 4 on the \clubsuit A. Declarer played the \spadesuit 2: eight – ten – jack. East switched to the \spadesuit A, ruffed in dummy. Declarer cashed the \blacktriangledown A, \spadesuit A and ruffed a diamond. Declarer had two hearts to lose, but still made ten tricks, for +420 and +9.2 Imps. Other results: $3\spadesuit$ –100 x 2; $3\spadesuit$ doubled –100; $3\spadesuit$ –50 x 3; $4\spadesuit$ –50; $4\spadesuit$ –50 x 2; $4\blacktriangledown$ –50; $2\spadesuit$ +110; $3\spadesuit$ +140 x 3; $4\blacktriangledown$ –150.

Problems for Tomorrow:

- 1. As dealer, vulnerable vs not vulnerable, what would you do with:
- **★** 1076
- **♥** KQ
- ♦ AKQ1098
- **♣** 43
- 2. South dealer: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♥	$1NT^{(1)}$	Pass
Pass	?		
(1) 15-18 p	oints		

What would you do as North with:

- **♦** Q85
- **♥** K8762
- ♦ AJ1063
- ۔۔ بھ

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

Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not for COVID-19, but to stop eating.