

## 289. More preferential treatment

*By Ron Klinger*

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

North			
♠ A3			
♥ K104			
♦ A5			
♣ AQ10743			
West			
♠ K75			
♥ AJ52			
♦ Q9743			
♣ 5			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♣	3♦	3♠
4♦	4♠	All Pass	

1. West leads the ♣5: queen – six – two.
2. Declarer cashes the ♠A: six – two – five.
3. Declarer continues with the ♠3: jack – queen – king.

What would you play as West at trick 4?

*What did partner play at trick 1?*

The ♣6.

*What was the ♣6?*

Partner's lowest club, since South contributed the ♣2.

*Any other clues?*

Partner played the ♠6 and then the ♠J. Does that carry any message?

Dealer West : Nil vulnerable

		North			
		♠ A3			
		♥ K104			
		♦ A5			
		♣ AQ10743			
West				East	
♠ K75				♠ J6	
♥ AJ52				♥ Q986	
♦ Q9743				♦ KJ102	
♣ 5				♣ 986	
		South			
		♠ Q109842			
		♥ 73			
		♦ 86			
		♣ KJ2			

After ♣5, taken by the ♣A, followed by the ♠A and a second spade, this was the position:

		North		
		♠		
		♥ K104		
		♦ A5		
		♣ Q10743		
West			East	
♠ 7			♠	
♥ AJ52			♥ Q986	
♦ Q9743			♦ KJ102	
♣			♣ 98	
		South		
		♠ 10984		
		♥ 73		
		♦ 86		
		♣ KJ		

Having seen the ♣6, East's lowest and East's ♠6 (lowest), then ♠J, West switched to the ♦7. Declarer was doomed. If he ducked, East would win and give West a club ruff. If he played the ♦A, he could not reach his hand to draw the last trump without East gaining the lead at some point. As it happens, a low heart switch by West at trick 4 would also have worked.

Note East's signal in the trump suit. Since the ♠J was bound to have no trick-taking ability, East could play ♠6-then-♠J, low-high, as suit-preference for diamonds and ♠J-then-♠6 as suit-preference for hearts.

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
4♥	?		

What would you do as North with:

♠ J7653  
 ♥ A9  
 ♦ KQ94  
 ♣ 75

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

*Have you noticed that the theory of earthquakes is on shaky ground?*