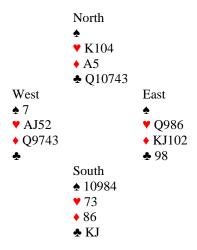
289. More preferential treatment

By Ron Klinger

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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♠
                 All Pass
 4
1. West leads the \pm 5: queen – six – two.
2. Declarer cashes the \triangle 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
                          ♥ Q986
 ♥ AJ52
                          ♦ KJ102
 ♦ Q9743
 ♣ 5
                          ♣ 986
            South
            ♦ Q109842
```

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

♥ 73 ♦ 86 ♣ KJ2



Having seen the \clubsuit 6, East's lowest and East's \spadesuit 6 (lowest), then \spadesuit J, West switched to the \spadesuit 7. Declarer was doomed. If he ducked, East would win and give West a club ruff. If he played the \spadesuit 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?