

**DIFFICULT BIDDING  
SAME HAND/ DECLARER PLAY & DEFENSE**

You hold: 86 AK87432 986 6

North, your partner opens 1 Spade, East overcalls 2 Clubs, you as South how have a problem 4 bids you might choose from: (a) 2 Hearts (b) 3 Hearts (c) 4 Hearts (d) Double  
Which bid would you make holding the South hand?

The one you shouldn't make is 4 Hearts. Why? Because it's a splinter bid.

Yes, splinters are on over interference. What bid did you make?

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PLAN YOUR PLAY

AKJ32

5

A43

10732

86

AK87432

986

6

West leads the 5 of clubs, you play the 2 from dummy, East wins the Ace, you play the 6.  
East returns the Q of clubs which you ruff. Plan your play.

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DEFENSE

AKJ32

5

A43

10732

Q104

Q9

QJ5

AQJ84

West leads the 5 of clubs, dummy plays the 2, you win your Ace, declarer plays the 6.  
What do you lead at trick 2 and why?

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All 4 hands are on the next page, figure out your answers before looking.

AKJ32

5  
A43  
10732

975  
J106  
K1072  
K195

Q104  
Q9  
QJ5  
AQJ84

86  
AK87432  
986  
6

One simple hand and yet so much work for everyone at the table.

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	AK52	DEALER – 1 Club		
	43		1 Spade	
	K8		4 Hearts	
	KQ1075			
Q876			10943	
65	Pass		AJ10	Pass
J9432	Pass		AQ10	Pass
J6			984	
	J			
	KQ9872	1 Heart		
	765	3 Hearts		
	A32			

I didn't open 1 NT with North's hand because of the 2 doubletons. South's jump rebid to 3 Hearts is invitational, reasonable 6 card suit, 9-11 HCPs.

In the absence of anything brilliant to lead, the unbid suit usually a sensible choice. Lead is the 3 of diamonds, unbid suit, 4<sup>th</sup> best. South plays the K, you win your Ace and cash the Q of diamonds, partner plays the 2. What do you lead at trick 3? Given the lead, West can't have more than 5 diamonds, which means South has at least 3. West is marked with the J, if declarer had the J, he would have played low from dummy. Also, the lead of a low card suggests an honor, and only the J is missing. Considering what you know, you should play a 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond, forcing dummy to ruff. WHY?

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- Note the bidding
- Note the opening lead
- Note partner's discards
- Draw inferences from the bidding and play. If dummy holds KQJ10X of a suit and declarer doesn't attack that suit, you can bet declarer owns the Ace