

PLAY & DEFEND BETTER

10
K72 DEALER – 1 Diamond
AJ863 2 Clubs
AKJ3 ???

AJ43
8653 PASS
K9 PASS
1087

K9652
94 PASS
Q105 PASS
942

Q87
AQJ10 1 Heart
742 2 NT
Q65

North, holding a hand with this distribution and a good 15-17 high card points, bid both suits and then what's your rebid over 2NT? 2 NT is not forcing and shows 11-12 HCP.

982 DEALER – 1 Diamond
A9 2 Diamonds
KQ1052
A98

10
106543
873 PASS
7542

KQJ73
J2 1 Spade
A64 PASS
Q106

A654
KQ87 Double
J9 3 NT
KJ3

10 of spades lead. In the absence of a strong lead of one's own, lead partner's overcalled suit. Declarer plays the 2, plan your defense.

A62 DEALER – 1 Club
A85 1 NT
KQ6
7654

QJ9
72 PASS
105432
A98

10875
K3 PASS
J987 PASS
QJ10

K43 1 Heart
QJ10964 4 Hearts
A
K32

Opening lead Q of spades. The opening bidder should open any four-card club suit in preference to any three-card diamond suit. Also with this distribution, North's first priority is to rebid 1 NT, not raise hearts. South has enough to bid game. A leap to 3 hearts would not be forcing, would be invitational. East should encourage, play the 8. Plan your play.

A3 2 Diamonds (Transfer)
K10985 5 NT (Pick a slam)
AK10
QJ2

8752
32 PASS
8653
1053

KQ94
76 PASS
Q72 PASS
9874

J106
AQJ4 DEALER – 1NT
J94 2 Hearts
AK6 6 Hearts

Opening lead, heart 3. Declarer wins the trump lead, plays another top trump then cashes 3 clubs. He then throws you (East) in with Ace of spades and a second spade dropping the J. How will you know what to do next? You're faced with a choice of defenses. If declarer began with 2 spades, another spade will give him a ruff-and-sluff. In that case, you would have to play a diamond in the hope that partner holds the diamond jack. However, West, can tell you which defensive route to take. HOW?
