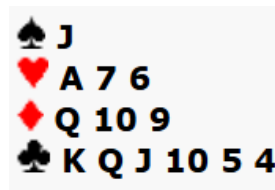


Augst 2026 Hand of the Week 101: More on the power of 2's



The final hand (for now!) illustrating the usefulness of 2's.

Sitting south you open 1♣, partner responds 1♥ and East overcalls 2♦.

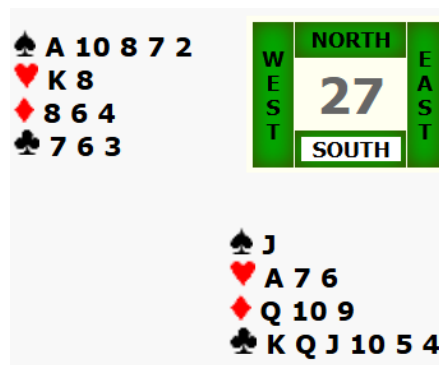
Following a competitive auction EW end up in 5D*

N	E	S	W
		1♣	Pass
1♥	2♦	3♣	4♦
4♥	5♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The options are to lead K♣ or A♥. It seems likely that partner has a good quality heart suit and you will need to take them quickly as the hands are likely to be quite distributional based on the bidding.

There is a reasonable argument for a club lead. If partner has the A he should overtake to unblock and can either return the suit or switch to hearts.

As it is the A♥ was lead, followed by 8♥, 2♥, 3♥



Continuing hearts does not look promising so should you switch to spades or clubs?

Partner has helped you here by playing the 2♥, normally after partners lead you show preference for the lead suit- a high card encourages and a low card discourages (some partnerships will play reverse attitude ie high discouraging, low encouraging)

However, in a situation like this an attitude signal is likely of no use- it is obvious that partner does not hold K♥ as you can see it on the table. In this situation partner can show suit preference- a high card would ask for the higher of the remaining suits (in this case spades), and a low card asks for the lower suit. 2♥ is low suggesting partner wants a club switch.

The full hand:

Dlr: South
Vul: None

♠ 6 4 3
♥ Q J 10 9 5 4 2
♦ 7
♣ A 9

Optimum
EW 4Sx
+100

♠ A 10 8 7 2
♥ K 8
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 7 6 3

WEST
NORTH
EAST

27

WEST
SOUTH
EAST

♠ K Q 9 5
♥ 3
♦ A K J 5 3 2
♣ 8 2

7

7

13

13

♠ J
♥ A 7 6
♦ Q 10 9
♣ K Q J 10 5 4

♣♦♥♠N

N	9	4	10	4	5
S	9	4	10	4	5
E	3	9	2	9	6
W	3	9	2	9	6

South wins A♥ and switches to K♣ - this shows partner you hold the Q♣. Holding KJxxx(x) or Kxxxx(x) you should lead 4th highest. As the cards lie partner will overtake with A♣ to unblock and return their 9♣ to partner's Q♣ hoping for a club ruff if partner started with a 5 card suit. As it is declarer wins the 3rd round and now just loses the Q♦ for 2 down. This is a good sacrifice from EW as 4♥ will make. Note that 4♠ is an even better sacrifice but would require West to overcall 1♠.

Remember to watch partner's cards and consider if they are showing attitude or suit preference on your leads.