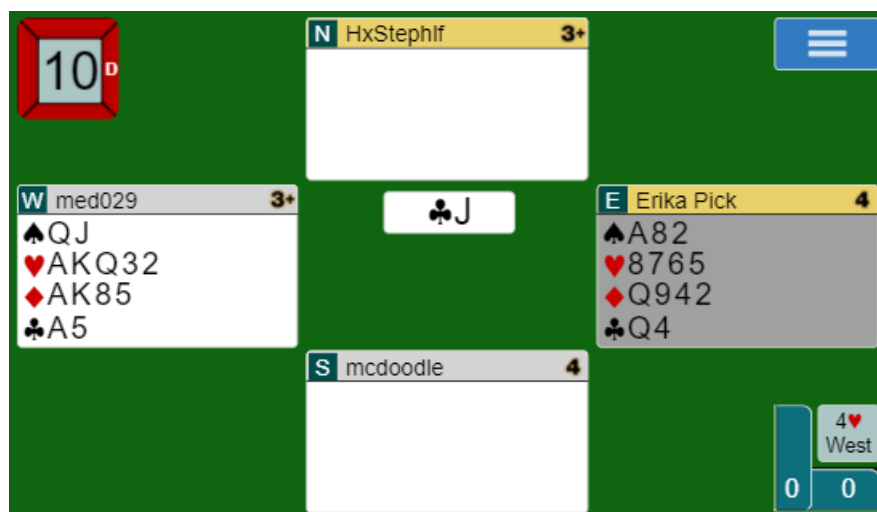


08/03/2021 Hand of the Week 54: Using information from the lead



If you look at the back of the convention card it gives you the option of showing leads from different suit combinations. You will see that the lead of a J can be from either from KJ10 or J10. This can make things difficult in this situation as it leaves the possibility that either hand could have the K♣.

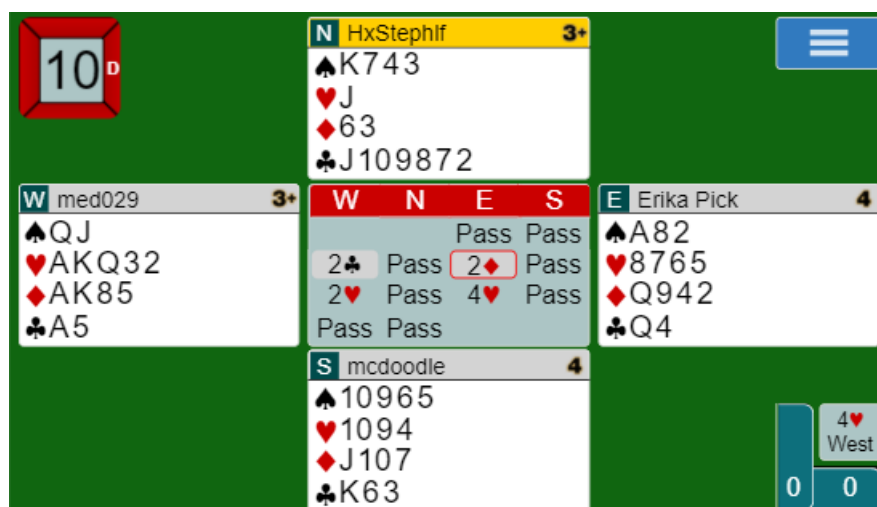
Some partnerships therefor choose to use a 'non standard' option whereby, for example, leading the J would deny a higher honour. In this case from KJ10 you would lead the 10.

In this case we assume 'standard' leads. How does this help plan the play?

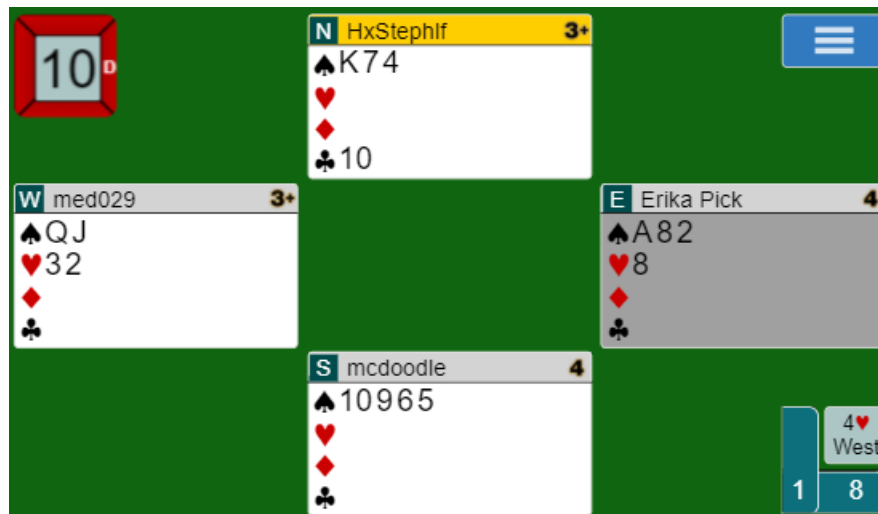
Assuming the suits break reasonably we should have 5 hearts, 4 diamonds and the A♣.

Spades could provide additional tricks based on a spade finesse, but there is no rush to take it, and the lead may help- can you see how?

There is no risk in playing the Q♣- if it holds then you have your extra trick, however, if we place South with the K♣ there is an end play available. This is the full hand



Hearts actually split 3-1 and diamonds 3-2. I would suggest taking the A♣ at trick one, taking the hearts and diamonds and then leading the second club, leading to this position with South on lead:



A spade lead now gives you the remaining tricks. Note if South holds onto a club that doesn't help as a club lead gives a ruff and a discard. If it turns out North did lead from KJ10 of clubs, then you still have the spade finesse to fall back on

Have a talk with partner about whether there are situations where you might need to use a 'non-standard' lead