


Mentor Mentee 10-4-22

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 10 4 2		♠ J 7
♥ Q 10 7 5 4		♥ K J 9 8
♦ J 10 2		♦ K Q 9
♣ J 3		♣ K Q 10 7
♠ A Q 9 6		♠ K 8 5 3
		♥ A 3
		♦ 7 6 4 3
		♣ 8 5 2

NS 2♠; EW 2♥; NS 1N; NS 2♦; NS 1♣; Par +100: EW 3♥×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead- Jack of Diamonds

Declarer counts losers considering the South hand as the master hand. If spades split 3-2 (68% probability), there will be no spade losers. There is one heart loser. There are three diamond losers, but the fourth diamond can be ruffed if diamonds do not split 3-3. And there are two club losers. With 5 losers, the contract should make. Declarer should plan to play trump immediately and then take winners in the side suits.

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Board 2
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ 6	♠ 9 8 7 5 4	♠ A									
♥ 10 7 6 4	♥ K Q 2	♥ J 9 8 3									
♦ K Q 7 3	♦ 5 2	♦ 10 9 8 6 4									
♣ 10 8 7 5	♣ Q J 2	♣ 9 6 4									
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K Q J 10 3 2										
	♥ A 5										
	♦ A J										
	♣ A K 3										

NS 6♠; NS 2N; NS 3♣; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +1430: NS 6♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead- King of Diamonds

Declarer sees that there is one sure loser in spades, and there will also be a losing diamond in the South hand after winning the opening lead with the A of diamonds. If declarer plays trump immediately, East will win the A and return a diamond, and the contract will go down. So, declarer must first find a way to eliminate the diamond loser. Fortunately, North's heart holding provides the solution. After winning the A of diamonds, play the A of hearts, followed by a low heart to the K. Now play the Q of hearts. If it holds (8 outstanding hearts will most often split 5-3), discard the J of diamonds. Now play trump to knock out the A of spades and claim the rest.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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♠ 6 2	♠ K J 10 9 8	♠ A 4 3
♥ J 9 8	♥ 5 4	♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ K 10 7 4	♦ J 5	♦ Q 9 8
♣ Q J 10 3	♣ A 6 4 2	♣ 9 8 7

♠ Q 7 5	♠ Q 7 5	♠ Q 7 5
♥ A K 7 2	♥ A K 7 2	♥ A K 7 2
♦ A 6 3 2	♦ A 6 3 2	♦ A 6 3 2
♣ K 5	♣ K 5	♣ K 5

NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 2♥; NS 2♣; NS 1♦; Par +420; NS 4♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

Opening Lead- Q of clubs

After the transfer, the dummy becomes the master hand because it has the long trump suit. From that perspective, declarer sees that there is one spade loser, no heart losers, one diamond loser, and two club losers. To make the contract, declarer must ruff at least one of the losing clubs in the south hand. And if two clubs can be ruffed, that could provide an overtrick. Declarer should win the K of clubs, play the 5 of clubs to the A, and ruff a club with a low spade. Now, with three losers, declarer should make 4S and declarer can begin to pull trump.

If declarer decides to pull trump first, East might duck the first spade played, win the second spade with the A, and then play another spade. Now, there will be no trump left in the South hand to ruff a losing club and the contract will go down.

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Board 4
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A	♠ 5 4 3 2	♠ K Q J
♥ J 10 9 6	♥ K 5 3	♥ 8 7 4 2
♦ K 4	♦ A J 5	♦ 9 7 3 2
♣ 10 8 6 5 4 2	♣ K 7 3	♣ J 9

♠ 10 9 8 7 6	<table border="1" style="border: 2px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K Q J
N					
W E					
S					
♥ A Q		♥ 8 7 4 2			
♦ Q 10 8 6		♦ 9 7 3 2			
♣ A Q		♣ J 9			

NS 4N; NS 4♠; NS 4♦; NS 2♥; NS 2♣; Par +630: NS 3N+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♠

Opening lead- J of hearts

This is an unusual hand where declarer has lots of tricks but is missing all of the top trump. Many newer players are afraid of the trump suit and start to play side suit winners. For example, declarer might win the heart lead in their hand, play the Q of diamonds for a finesse (successful), and repeat with more diamonds. If three diamonds are played, West will win with the A of spades and the contract will go down since the KQJ of spades are still outstanding. In order to make the contract, declarer must play a spade every time they get in. Declarer will lose 3 trump tricks, and all the rest will be winners.

Board 5
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ K 4 2	♠ J 8 7 6 5	♠ —
♥ K 5 4 3	♥ 10 6	♥ Q J 8 7 2
♦ J 10 8	♦ A 9 7 5 4	♦ K Q 6 3
♣ K 10 9	♣ 2	♣ Q J 6 5

♠ A Q 10 9 3
♥ A 9
♦ 2
♣ A 8 7 4 3

NS 5♠; NS 1N; EW 1♥; Par +650: NS 4♠+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
Pass			Pass

Opening lead- J of diamonds

Declarer will note that there are many losers whichever hand becomes the master hand. A good declarer will note the two singletons opposite aces and decide that the hand is best played by cross ruffing the short suits. Win the lead with the A of diamonds, play the 2 of clubs to the A, cash the A of hearts, and begin cross ruffing clubs and diamonds. There will be sufficient tricks to make the contract.

If declarer pulls trump first, she must play 3 rounds of trump (winning two out of three tricks). Now, she can win 3 aces, 2 tricks pulling trump, and 4 tricks by cross ruffing, and the contract will go down.