

## 322. Success thanks to the lead

By Ron Klinger

Dealer South : Both vulnerable

What would you lead as West from:

West	North	East	South	♠ J7532
			1♥	♥ 1098
Pass	2♥	Dble	3♦	♦ 10
Pass	4♥	All Pass		♣ 10532

Make your choice for the opening lead before considering the next problem.

Yesterday's question was what should South do after 1♥ : Pass : 2♥ : Double with this hand

♠ 108  
♥ AK763  
♦ AJ532  
♣ 6

A rebid of 3♥ by South, treated by most pairs not as inviting, but simply to try to win the part-score, is not enough. South has six losers. For the 6-9-point raise, North usually has 9 losers, but can have an 8-loser hand occasionally. Even though you have only 12 HCP, there is a possibility for game, albeit a modest one. The location of partner's points is what matters. High cards in diamonds are golden. High cards in a black suit have little value except for the aces. Your best move is to make a trial bid in diamonds with 3♦. This asks partner to bid game with a good holding in diamonds. You are hoping partner will provide a magic holding such as:

♠ 763  
♥ QJ5  
♦ KQ64  
♣ 873

The deal comes from the 2017 Spingold (USA K-O Open Teams) semi-final between [LAVAZZA](#) and [SCHWARTZ](#).

Board 7: Dealer South : Both vulnerable

	North		West	North	East	South
	♠ K6		<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	♥ QJ4		<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gold</i>
	♦ 9876					1♥
	♣ QJ94		Pass	2♥	Dble	3♦
West		East	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
♠ J7532		♠ AQ94				
♥ 1098		♥ 52				
♦ 10		♦ KQ4				
♣ 10532		♣ AK87				
	South					
	♠ 108					
	♥ AK763					
	♦ AJ532					
	♣ 6					

With no help in diamonds, I would have bid 3♥ as North, despite the 9 HCP. A spade lead would put paid to 4♥. East can take two spades and a club and come to a diamond trick eventually (or two if declarer plays ♦A).

Both Wests led ♦10. That was certainly a reasonable choice, But it resulted in East being end-played.

After ♦10: six – queen – ace, Gold (S) drew trumps and exited with the ♦3. East won with the ♦K and returned the ♦4. South should win this with the ♦J and play the ♣6 to the queen and king. This would be the position:

		North		
		♠ K6		
		♥		
		♦ 9		
		♣ J94		
West			East	
♠ J75			♠ AQ9	
♥			♥	
♦			♦	
♣ 1053			♣ A87	
		South		
		♠ 108		
		♥ K7		
		♦ 52		
		♣		

East is on lead and is endplayed. Whether East plays a spade or a club, South loses only one more trick.

The BBO record has declarer winning the fourth diamond in dummy. The ♠Q or ♣J now produces the same position as above. According to BBO, declarer played the ♣4 next. Had East ducked this (very hard to do), West could win with the ♣10 and switch to a spade to defeat 4♥. East played high on the ♣4 and exited with the ♣8. South discarded a spade and dummy, with Q-J-9 won. The top club from dummy was covered by the king and ruffed by South. Next came the ♦2 to the ♦9 and dummy's club winner allowed South to pitch the other spade. South made 11 tricks, +650.

		North		
		♠ K6		
		♥ QJ4		
		♦ 9876		
		♣ QJ94		
West			East	
♠ J7532			♠ AQ94	
♥ 1098			♥ 52	
♦ 10			♦ KQ4	
♣ 10532			♣ AK87	
		South		
		♠ 108		
		♥ AK763		
		♦ AJ532		
		♣ 6		

Madala (S) also received the ♦10 lead. He captured the ♦Q, drew trumps and played the ♦2 to the ♦7 and ♦K. East returned the ♦4. South won with the ♦J and played the ♣6, contributing a top club from dummy. East won and the position was effectively the one at the top of page. South made ten tricks, +620, 1 Imp to [SCHWARTZ](#).

## Problem for Tomorrow:

Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

What would you do as North with:

West	North	East	South	♠ A652
			1NT(15-17)	♥ 4
2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	?			♦ 10543
(1) Majors				♣ A743

**Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?**

*Is a hearse carrying a corpse eligible to travel in the Transit Lane: Minimum two passengers?*