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♥	v 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:

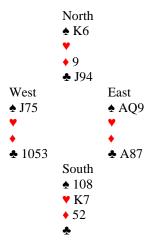
- **★** 763
- ♥ QJ5
- ♦ KQ64
- **8** 873

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

Board 7: Dealer South: Both vulnerable

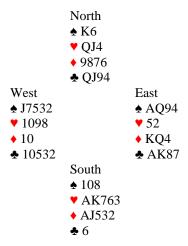
	North		West	North	East	South	
	♦ K6		Stamatov	Bianchedi	Danailov	Madala	
	♥ QJ4		Sementa	Schwartz	Bocchi	Gold	
	♦ 9876					1♥	
	♣ QJ94		Pass	2♥	Dble	3♦	
West		East	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
♦ J7532		A AQ94					
v 1098	1 1098 ♥ 52		With no help in diamonds, I would have bid 3♥ as North,				
♦ 10	♦ 10		despite the 9 HCP. A spade lead would put paid to 4♥.				
♣ 10532		♣ AK87	East can tak	two spades	and a club and c	ome to a	
South			diamond trick eventually (or two if declarer plays ♦A).				
	▲ 108			•			
▼ AK763 Both Wests led ◆10. Th				led ◆10. That	nat was certainly a reasonable choice,		
◆ AJ532			But it resulted in East being end-played.				
	♣ 6						

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



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.



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:

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West North East South $^{\bullet}$ A652 1NT(15-17) $^{\bullet}$ 4 2$^{\bullet}$^{(1)} ? $^{\bullet}$ 10543 (1) Majors $^{\bullet}$ A743
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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?