

Solution 100204

February 6, 2010

100204.1

How should West play 5♣ on the lead of ♠J from North?

♠ 7		♠ QT93
♥ AQ4	W N E	♥ 83
♦ Q6	S	♦ KJ2
♣ AQT6432		♣ KJ85

Solution:

If you cover at trick 1, South will win and play a heart, and the contract is defeated if the heart finesse loses. So play low from dummy to the first trick. If the ♠J holds, set up one diamond and one spade to pitch two hearts. If South over takes the ♠J and return s a heart, go up with the ace and use trump entries to set up two spades for quick heart discards.

100204.2

How should West play 2NT on a spade lead?

♠ AQ3		♠ K94
♥ K82	W N E	♥ A54
♦ J6	S	♦ Q7532
♣ JT432		♣ K5

Solution:

Single suit play in ♣. Play small to the ♣K. If that wins, play low from both hands. You succeed whenever the clubs break or you find a doubleton honor. If the ♣K lost to the ace, win any return in dummy to lead a low club toward the ♣J.