

Solution 100216

February 19, 2010

100216.1

♠ A83		♠ 972
♥ AQ		♥ KJ74
♦ Q84		♦ AT9
♣ AKQJ2		♣ T83

	N	
W		E
	S	

How should West play 6♣ on a ♦J lead?

Solution:

You should go up with the ♦A and unblock your ♦Q. Otherwise you may have some problem in getting into the dummy after you unblock your hearts and clear all the trump.

100216.2

♠ AQT984		♠ 532
♥ K9		♥ T753
♦ KQ7		♦ J
♣ QJ		♣ A9865

	N	
W		E
	S	

Against your 4♠ contract, North leads ♦A and switch a small ♥. South wins with ace of heart and return another heart. How should West play after the ♥K holds?

Solution:

You already lose 2 tricks and you may have some more losers on clubs. You can test the clubs first, and choose the best way to play spades based on whether the club finesse works. If your ♣Q holds, you can cash ♠A before you finesse the spades. If the ♣Q lost to South's ♣K, then your best chance would be the double finesse in spades.