

Solution 100220

February 27, 2010

100220.1

♠ KQJ73		♠ A6
♥ A74		♥ J8
♦	N W E S	♦ KQ863
♣ AKQT5		♣ 9742

North leads a ♥K against your 6♣ contract. You win by your ace and draw trump. Clubs are 3-1 outside. How would you play after you win by the ace?

Solution:

The key point of this problem is that you need a plan B if spades are worse than 4-2. Also, you need to be careful about entries with this plan: ♦ finesse. You need to clear the trump, cash ♠K first, and small spade to ♠A. If both defenders follow, then you don't have to risk the ♦ finesse. If spades are worse than 4-2, you have to hope South has ♦A and you can finesse him immediately after you discover the bad split of spades. You can use the last trump to cash your established ♦ winner.

100220.2

♠ K32		♠ 865
♥ KQJT9843		♥ A72
♦	N W E S	♦ J84
♣ T3		♣ AQJ7

Against your 4♥ contract, North leads ♦K and South follows ♦T to encourage. How would you play this contract?

Solution:

You can't afford South attack your spades, so we have a delicate play here. Discard a small club at first round to cut off the connections between defenders (A variation of **Scissors Coup**). Cash ♣A and play ♣Q to trump-finesse later. In this way you will lose at most one trick in each of the suit.