

Solution 100314

August 3, 2010

100314.1

♠ 94		♠ AKJ7
♥ A64		♥ KJ7
♦ AJ	N W E S	♦ 852
♣ AKT763		♣ Q95

The contract is 6NT, North has bid diamonds. The lead is $\diamond K$ and south discards a heart, how would you play this contract?

Solution:

To make this 6NT, you should strip south's club and play the $\spadesuit 9$ to the small if North doesn't cover with $\spadesuit 10$ or $\spadesuit Q$.

100314.2

♠ AKJT74		♠ 9652
♥ A4		♥ J7
♦ AJ3	N W E S	♦ Q7652
♣ K7		♣ 82

North lead a $\heartsuit K$ against your $4\spadesuit$ contract. You won by your ace and played $\spadesuit A$. Both defenders followed. How would you play this contract?

Solution:

It seems that you should endplay north by heart. But this line will fail if north have only one diamond. South will win the diamond at some point and return a club. You can't do anything to save any of the 4 losers. The correct line is to play $\spadesuit K$ and another $\spadesuit 4$ to dummy's $\spadesuit 5$. and finesse a diamond right away. If the finesse holds you can cash $\diamond A$ to cut down the connection on diamonds between defenders. Then you can endplay North by exiting a heart and north can't avoid giving you a ruff & sluff or a free finesse. If the finesse lost to North, then you can set up the diamonds to pitch one club loser.