

Solution 100419

August 3, 2010

100419.1

♠ 86	
♥ J865	
♦ AQ73	
♣ AK5	
	♠ 2
	♥ KQT9
	♦ JT852
	♣ Q84

	N	
W		E
	S	

North opens 1NT and South jumps to 4♠. Partner leads ♥A and ♥7 to your ♥9. You cash ♥K and declarer ruff with a small spade. Then he plays ♠A, K. Partner follows ♠5,7. You discard a small diamond on the second round. Now South plays ♠J to partner's ♠Q and dummy's ♣5, what now?

Solution:

If you counted declarer's tricks, you will know he has 6 tricks in spades, 2 in clubs, and 2 in diamonds with the winning finesse if he has a diamond. Your defense would be pretty easy based on this point. You should pitch a diamond and hope for his void diamond.

100419.2

	W	N	E	S	W	N	E
	♦Q	♦K	♦2	♦7			
		♥Q	♥3	♥4	♥K		
	♦T	♦5	♦9	♦A			
♠ 432				♥6	♥9	♥J	♥5
♥ QJT2		♦6	♦8	♥7	♦3		
♦ K65				♣A	♣3	♣4	♣7
♣ KQ4				♣6	♣2	♣K	♣5
				♣Q	♣T	♠5	♣9

	♠ AK76
	♥ 53
	♦ 982
	♣ JT75

N
W E
S

South plays 4♥ after 1♥-3♥-4♥ auction. The first several rounds were: (W)♦Q-♦K-♦2-♦7, (N)♥Q-♥3-♥4-♥K, (W)♦T-♦5-♦9-♦A, (S)♥6-♥9-♥J-♥5, (N)♦5-♦8-♥7-♦3. Then south plays ♣A and ♣6 to ♣KQ, pitching a spade from his hand. Now he leads ♠2 from dummy, what now?

Solution:

Declarer has a marked 4-5-2-2 shape. He has ♥A, ♦A and ♣A. With the 4♥ bid he must have ♠Q. So the correct play at this trick is follow small spades quickly, hoping him to guess wrong when he holds ♠QTxx at the beginning. Furthermore, you won't lose any trick by following small because he can't pitch any more spades from his hand.