

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 3
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ Q 8 4

16
7 0
17

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 ♠ by North			
Lead: ♠ 5			

♠ A Q J 2
♥ J 10 3
♦ A K 10
♣ J 10 3



♠ K 9 8 6 4
♥ A 6
♦ Q J 3
♣ A K 9

♠ 7 5
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 7 6 5 2

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. The 2 ♥ bid was a transfer. The 5 NT bid meant to choose either 6 ♠ or 6 NT. North liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by North's ♠ Q. North pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and East plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick North drops the ♥ J and East the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe North is now out of ♥s then you should not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe North when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In

this case an even number must be 4 which means that North has one more ♥. So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to East's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Deal 2

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 10
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ A K 10 6 3

12
 13 2
 13

West

1 ♣

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

♠ 6 4

♥ A J 8

♦ A Q J 6

♣ 8 7 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 3

♥ K Q 7 6 4 3

♦ K 10

♣ J 9

North

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, East played the ♣ 2 and South the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.