

♣ prepared hands **suit defence**

Hand 1
Dealer North

♠ A63
♥ 72
♦ AKQJ5
♣ 642

♠ 94
♥ A986
♦ 873
♣ AK73

♠ KQJ10872
♥ K10
♦ 62
♣ 98

♠ 5
♥ QJ543
♦ 1094
♣ QJ105

N	E	S	W
1D	NB	1S	NB
2S	NB	4S	

A♣ led. East can immediately see the long diamond suit in dummy and knows that once South can draw trumps, all his other losers will be thrown away on the diamonds. To avoid this, E/W must take their tricks quickly and East must lead a heart to West in case there are tricks there. *The drop of the queen under the lead of the ace indicates either a singleton or the jack.* West now leads a low club at trick 2, East wins and switches to Q♥, allowing E/W to take their four tricks before South can get going.

Hand 2
Dealer East

♠ J843
♥ AK
♦ 6542
♣ Q74

♠ 52
♥ J932
♦ AK107
♣ 962

♠ AKQ106
♥ 54
♦ QJ8
♣ AJ3

♠ 97
♥ Q10876
♦ 93
♣ K1085

N	E	S	W
-	NB	1S	NB
3S	NB	4S	

Although 3NT makes, 4S is the likely contract. West leads A♦; East encourages with 9♦. West continues with K♦, then 10♦ and East ruffs. What should East return? West has led 10♦ asking for the higher-ranking suit, hearts, to be led. But can he mean that? In this situation, West isn't desperate for a heart, he just wants to make it clear that he has NO interest in clubs. Here, if East leads a club, declarer finesses and make the contract; if East leads a heart, South cannot avoid losing a club later on. *There is no long suit in dummy, so there is no hurry for E/W to take their tricks.*

Hand 3
Dealer South

♠ K962
♥ QJ3
♦ 82
♣ A875

♠ 85
♥ 10
♦ KJ1053
♣ K6432

♠ AQ1074
♥ K75
♦ A
♣ QJ109

♠ J3
♥ A98642
♦ Q9764
♣ -

N	E	S	W
-	-	1S	NB
3S	NB	4S	

Even if West over-friskily competes, South ends up in 4S. West leads 10♥ and East wins with A♥. East returns a heart for the likely ruff, but must ensure that he leads the correct card. *The size of the card you lead for your partner to ruff indicates which suit you would like returned.* Here, wanting a club - the lowest-ranking suit - returned, East leads back 2♥. West trumps and, obeying the signal, switches to a club. East trumps this and returns a third heart for the setting ruff.

Hand 4
Dealer West

♠ AK109
♥ AQJ4
♦ 86
♣ 732

♠ 8652
♥ 7
♦ AK932
♣ AQ6

♠ QJ
♥ K109862
♦ J4
♣ K104

♠ 743
♥ 53
♦ Q1075
♣ J985

N	E	S	W
-	-	-	1D
Dbl	2D	4H	

After a take-out double, East raises to 2D on a weaker hand to try to inhibit South's response. West leads A♦ and East encourages with 10♦. Since West knows that East has four diamonds, this must indicate Q♦. Now, West can switch to 2♦, allowing East to win with Q♦. This means that East now has the chance to switch to a club before declarer can draw trumps and throw away clubs from hand on dummy's good spades.