

1) a) lead Q hrts b) lead a spade [the 6] c) 9 hrts d) lead a spade [the 2]
If you wonder why I have rather posily qualified which trump card should be led it is to get your attention ! in order to explain that when we lead a side suit (say 862) we lead the 8 to make sure partner knows we have no honour in the suit .(and knows not to lead it back)When you are leading a trump from 862 there is no question we have an honour of course (who would lead from Q62 ?*) and so any trump card you lead indicates low cards in the suit. So why not the 8 ? Well its just possible that the 8 will be big enough to overruff or at least ruff and force a high card from dummy/declarer later in the game.

2) a) a spade ...8 diamonds is a possibility too b) a spade c) 8 diamonds (see * above) d) a spade... and here we will have to listen to those who plump for the singleton heart. And it could work but is far far far more likely to help declarer. Anyone remember what else you need to make the lead of a singleton a better shot ? (Its in your notes)

3) fairly clear to win Ace sp and return a spade. It will help to prevent ruffs in dummy and gives nothing away

4) Yes South's bid shows the opposite of what they want to show.
NB 1NT -----3C is a VERY strong bid e.g A -----543----AQJ----AK8743
To show the minnow they have , South should bid 2C and then 3C.
Yes ? Stayman first then continue 3C-a weak takeout in clubs

5) Dble

6) Our long term aim is to lead hearts and lead hearts in the hopes that partner 's last heart is a winner.

However that does not make it automatic to play the Ace hrts at trick 1.

If for instance declarer held the K hearts *and* you played the Ace on fresh air at trick 1, the declarer subsequently would make both the K + Q

So we have to think. (That should halve the readership).

Partner has led from KJxx OR Kxxx OR Jxxx. You will find that by playing the 10 declarer will make zero or 1 trick in the suit (never 2 tricks). That is your best play at trick 1.

(Hand A). Now with A72 hearts there is nothing better than playing the Ace.

We cant stop declarer winning 2 tricks if they have the K hearts.

(Hand C) Now the 10 hearts is correct. Again this will ensure declarer makes zero or 1 trick only in hearts. So it's the 10 that makes the difference. The following will do as a rule of thumb – when there is an hon in dummy you should be trying to win with the cheapest hon (AKQJ10) that you can. So with A103 if it possible that the 10 might win you should play it.

7 (i) take the spade finesse [2 to the Q] If the Q wins play the Ace (as there is no way to repeat the spade finesse) You have AJ87 but cant get back to hand

(ii)) take the spade finesse [2 to the Q] If the Q wins play the Ace (as there are no more spade finesses possible). NB because you have A65-----J73 which is not a finesse position

