

- 1) You held up with the Ace spades to try to cut the opponents off from each other – now you know that the leader’s partner has no more spades to lead you can simply play clubs as follows :- The 4 to the K and then the 6 to the J. Never mind if this finesse loses to the Q as even if it does , we know a spade can’t be led back. You now have 9 tricks 100% safely.
  
- 2) This one fooled an ex(!) partner of mine. They ducked the K sp lead and then the Qsp continuation. What’s wrong with that ? Everything ! To make 9 tricks you will have to play the 2 diamonds to the Q diamonds anyway . If it loses you are likely to go off –if it wins you can repeat the finesse and make 12 tricks. All you “achieve” by ducking the spade leads is to lose out on the chance for overtricks.
  
- 3)North’s bidding was exemplary . What has been going on is that South redoubled to suggest to partner that the opponents were outgunned and could possibly be doubled. When South does double 1Sp ( presumably because they hold good spades) North naturally passes. The correct lead btw is the Q Sp and NOT the Ace Hrts (N/S should try to draw the opponents trumps as soon as possible).
  
- 4) This one might be made with luck anyway wherever the Ace and Q and 10 diamonds lie .. but if you want a fool proof method to bring in 10 tricks you will have to “throw” the opponents in and force them to lead a diamond. Here’s how. Win the Ace spades –draw three rounds of trumps –play the K spades –play the AKQ clubs ....now lead a spade (which the opponents win). The opponents will either have to lead a diamond in which case you can’t help but make a trick OR will lead a spade or club which will give you a ruff and discard. You eliminated the side suits and threw in and end played the opponents. (Well done)
  
- 5)Well how did Mr Collings make his 7 Hrts.? He needed some help from the bridge Gods that distributed the hearts as they were and also some help from the defender that held the Q1075 hearts. Collings won the Ace clubs. Next he played the Ace diamonds ...the next player thought “ this is good I am out of diamonds I will ruff ” , and so he did , with the 5 hearts.Collings of course overruffed with the 6 hearts and returned to dummy with the Ace spades. Next he played the K diamonds. The next player now knew that if he ruffed he would get overruffed, on the other hand he thought if he didn’t ruff Collings could throw a loser away , so he ruffed with the 7 hearts and Collings overruffed with the 8 hearts. Dummy was reentered with another spade and the Q diamonds was led and ruffed by the defender , with the 10 hearts. Collings overruffed with the J hearts. Finally Collings led the Ace hearts dropping the King and Queen of Hearts. “We were lucky the trumps broke “ Collings reportedly said. True story. So how bad was the play of the defender that kept ruffing and getting overruffed? We could probably forgive him his first ruff but after that (when he knows he will get overruffed ) he should of course ruff with his highest trump if he is going to ruff at all. That would have made all the difference. ( It is what beginners learn early on - if you think or know you will get overruffed , always ruff with your highest trump ). By the way before 7Hrts was bid Collings’ partner had bid 7 Diamonds which Collings had passed . It was only when 7D was doubled that Collings tried 7H. If the player that doubled 7D with J86532 diamonds had only kept quiet 7 diamonds would have been the final contract going about 4 off !

