

1)

Partner led the 7Sp and you probably won with the Qsp and tried to weigh up whether to cash both the A sp + K sp or just one of them or perhaps none of them and switch straight away.

You may even have decided which switch to make (perhaps a club looking the most hopeful).

But it will all come to nothing because at trick 1 you had to play a small spade NOT the Q or K or Ace.

Declarer who had bid 3NT freely surely holds the J1098 spades and cannot be denied 1 trick in spades.

The problem with winning the first spade (and say carrying on with spades) is that you will end up with a winning spade in your hand (the 5sp) BUT you will never get the lead to cash it. You had to duck the opening lead , allowing declarer to have their spade winner BUT also ensuring that partner had a spade left to lead to your AKQ5.

For the record partner held the Ace hearts and declarer cannot take 9 tricks without playing on hearts. And as soon as declarer leads a heart your partner will swoop in with their Ace hearts to lead their one remaining small spade.

So ...if you ducked a spade at trick 1 you will take 5 tricks in time –if you won at trick 1 the declarer takes 9 tricks and their contract.

Easy really.

2)

This one was easier.

Probably you played a small heart on your partner's Ace and waited for them to lead another heart to your King. { and that is how 99.9% of players would play and you will still beat the contract whatever you played at trick 1 BUT it will be mentioned in passing here that actually you should have played the K hearts under your partner's Ace ! More on this below }.

Anyway you didn't play like that ,you played a small heart and partner carried on with a heart which you won with your King.

Now you have to make the right switch to put partner in so they can carry on with their winning hearts (they started with AQJ986 hearts).

So ...a club ? or a diamond ? or a spade ?

If you make the right switch the contract goes 2 off (for + 500 to you) and if you Made the wrong switch the grateful declarer takes 7 tricks and their contract.

The club lead at trick three beats the contract . Well done.

Partner had doubled with Q -----AQJ986-----743-----AK4

So why should we have played the K hearts under the Ace at trick 1 ?

Well you are probably too young to know that a lead of an Ace at No Trumps was an "unblock" card requesting partner to play any honour they had to get it out of the way.

"Well I didn't know that " you say. Did you know then that a lead of an honour at No Trumps shows 3 honours ? So if partner led (say) the K , then they would have the KQJ and if they led (say) the Q , then they would have QJ10 ?

So if they led the Ace ? "oh I see what you mean , they must have the AQJ and would appreciate it if I played my blocking K ?" "Just so ".