

Adoring Aces

Board 1

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 10 8 6

♥ —

♦ K Q 9 3

♣ 8 4 3 2



West

1 ♠

All pass

North

Dbl

East

2 ♠

South

3 ♥

What's your lead? Why?

Adoring Aces

Board 1

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 10 8 6		♠ 7 5
♥ —		♥ A Q 8 6
♦ K Q 9 3		♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ 8 4 3 2		♣ A K J
	N W E S	
		♠ J 4 2
		♥ 10 7 5 4 3
		♦ A 7 6 5
		♣ 5
		♠ K 9 3
		♥ K J 9 2
		♦ J
		♣ Q 10 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dbl	2 ♠	3 ♥
All pass			

Actual lead: ♠ A

Suggested lead: ♦ K

Partner supporting your suit
is not permission
 for leading an unsupported Ace

Bidding notes:

W's strong hand with support & a void in opponent's suit suggests bidding on.

Alternatives: X or 3 ♠.

X is better as it is more flexible.

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Board 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9

♥ Q 10 9 7 3 2

♦ A 6

♣ J 6 4



West

North

East

South

Pass

2 ♥

2 NT

3 ♥

1 ♠

4 ♠

All pass

What's your lead? Why?

Adoring Aces

Board 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9		♠ 7 6
♥ Q 10 9 7 3 2		♥ A J 5 4
♦ A 6		♦ Q J 4 3
♣ J 6 4		♣ K 8 5
	N W E S	
		♠ Q 10
		♥ K 8 6
		♦ K 10 7
		♣ Q 9 7 3 2
		♠ A J 8 5 4 3 2
		♥ —
		♦ 9 8 5 2
		♣ A 10

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 NT	3 ♥	4 ♠
All pass			

Actual lead: ♥ 7

Suggested lead: ♦ A

An aggressive defense,
based on the bidding and your holding,
may be effective.

Bidding notes:

S hand is a R20. S jumps to game over Responder's 2 NT which shows 11-12 HE & 2-card support.

Commentary:

Although many class examples show leading an unsupported Ace is not best, there are hands where it can work out. This is one of those situations.

W tries for a ruff with ♦ Ax as ♥s don't look promising. Without the ruff, EW makes 10 tricks.

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Board 3

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 9 8 4

♥ 10 6 5

♦ A

♣ 10 9 7 6 3 2



West

Pass

Pass

Pass

North

1 ♦

3 ♠

Pass

East

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

4 ♠

What is your lead? Why?

Adoring Aces

Board 3

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 9 8 4		♠ A Q 5 3	
♥ 10 6 5		♥ J	
♦ A		♦ Q 6 5 2	
♣ 10 9 7 6 3 2		♣ A Q 8 5	

	♠ 6
♠ K J 10 7 2	♥ A K Q 8 7 2
♥ 9 4 3	♦ J 9 8 7 4
♦ K 10 3	♣ J
♣ K 4	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Actual lead: ♥ 5

Suggested lead: ♦ A

A singleton Ace lead
may pay dividends when conditions
suggest a possibility of a ruff

Defensive notes:

The opponents bid confidently. W has little in the way of defense. However, there's a reasonable expectation of reaching partner's hand after cashing the ♦ A.

This defense is unlikely to cost a trick on this hand. N leads the singleton Ace instead of partner's suit and is rewarded by holding the opponents to 10 tricks (-420) instead of giving up 11 tricks (-450).

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Board 4

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 9 8 4
♥ J 10
♦ A 9 6 5 2
♣ A Q J



♠ 10
♥ K 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 8
♣ 10 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
		<i>pasa49</i>	
		1 ♦	Pass
2 ♦ ! ¹	2 ♠	Dbl	All pass
1. Inverted 11+			

Situation: Partner (E) leads the ♦ K.
What's your defensive plan?

Adoring Aces

Board 4

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 9 8 4
♥ J 10
♦ A 9 6 5 2
♣ A Q J



♠ 10
♥ K 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 8
♣ 10 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
		<i>pasa49</i>	
2 ♦ ! ¹	2 ♠	1 ♦	Pass
		Dbl	All pass
1. Inverted 11+			

Situation: Partner leads the ♦ K.
What's your defensive plan?

Using an Ace
to overtake your partner's honor
to play from your hand
is often overlooked

Defensive notes:

Overtake partner's ♦ K to lead a trump through Declarer.

Bidding notes:

The X by Partner (E) shows a strong 4-card suit. E might also have a 4-card ♥ suit; this adds up to declarer having 3/4 Diamonds.

It's imperative to eliminate ruff(s).

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Board 4

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 9 8 4	♠ A 7 6 5 2	♠ K Q J 3
♥ J 10	♥ A Q 6 3	♥ —
♦ A 9 6 5 2	♦ J 4	♦ K Q 10 7 3
♣ A Q J	♣ K 4	♣ 8 6 3 2

♠ 10		
♥ K 9 8 7 5 4 2		
♦ 8		
♣ 10 9 7 5		



West	North	East	South
		<i>pasa49</i>	
2 ♦ ! ¹	2 ♠	1 ♦	Pass
		Dbl	All pass

1. Inverted 11+

Final bidding note:

The X by E shows a strong 4-card suit and a willingness to defend.

With a singleton Spades and seven Hearts, South has a clear "preference" for Hearts.

A 3 ♥ bid by Advancer typically shows a strong hand, but after the X, South's bid becomes a "run-out" from a possible, steep penalty.

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Board 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 9
♥ J 9 7
♦ K 9 4
♣ A J 7 6



♠ A K 7 3
♥ 10 8 5 4
♦ Q 8
♣ K 10 3

West	North	East	South
<i>pasa49</i>			
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT! ¹	Pass	3 ♥ ²
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Asking if 3/4 ♥ and strength

2. 4 ♥ and a minimum

Partner's lead: ♣ 5; Dummy plays the ♣ 3

What's your plan?

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Board 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 9
♥ J 9 7
♦ K 9 4
♣ A J 7 6



♠ A K 7 3
♥ 10 8 5 4
♦ Q 8
♣ K 10 3

West	North	East	South
<i>pasa49</i>			
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT! ¹	Pass	3 ♥ ²
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Asking if 3/4 ♥ and strength

2. 4 ♥ and a minimum

Partner's lead: ♣ 5; Dummy plays the ♣ 3

What's your plan?

An Ace can keep communication
with partner for a later entry

Defensive plan:

Leading dummy's first bid suit is typically a singleton, but here that doesn't look likely. As we generally avoid leading from an outside Q, this lead is most likely from a worthless doubleton.

If it is, partner will almost assuredly have a trump entry. You probably have no other entry to your hand except the ♣ A.

Duck this trick with the ♣ 6.

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Board 6

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ 10
♥ Q 8 7 6
♦ A 10 8 7 5
♣ A K 6



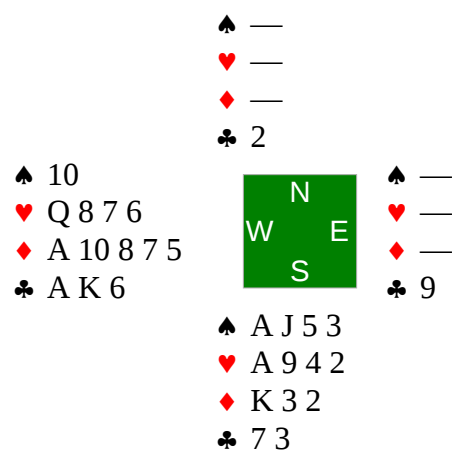
West	North	East	South
	<i>pasa49</i>		<i>profx</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Your opponents reach 4 ♠.

Partner is on lead.

You hope to beat this contract as they stretched for game. Let's get started.

Adoring Aces

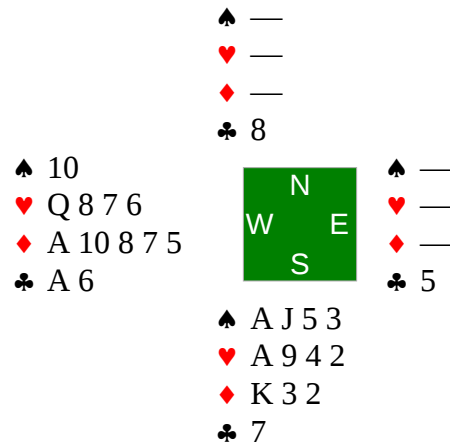


West	North <i>pasa49</i>	East	South <i>profx</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads ♣ 9 and you take the King.

What's your plan? What card do you play now?

Adoring Aces



West	North <i>pasa49</i>	East	South <i>profx</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You decide to continue Clubs.

On the 2nd trick, your ♣ A gets the ♣ 8 from declarer, ♣ 5 from Partner and the ♣ 7 from dummy.

What do you think is going on and what card do you play now?

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♠ 10
 ♥ Q 8 7 6
 ♦ A 10 8 7 5
 ♣ 6



♠ A J 5 3
 ♥ A 9 4 2
 ♦ K 3 2
 ♣ —

West	North <i>pasa49</i>	East	South <i>profx</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Here's your hand and you decided to lead the ♣ 6.

♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ 4
 ♣ —

♠ 10
♥ Q 8 7 6
♦ A 10 8 7 5
♣ 6

W N E S

♠ —
♥ —
♦ —
♣ 4

♠ A J 5 3
♥ A 9 4 2
♦ K 3 2
♣ —

West	North	East	South
	<i>pasa49</i>		<i>profx</i>
		Pass	1 
Pass	1 	Pass	2 
Dbl	3 	Pass	4 
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On your ♣ 6, declarer discards the ♦ 4!!! Partner
the ♣ 4 and dummy ruffs with the ♠ 3, leaving...

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♠ 10	
♥ Q 8 7 6	
♦ A 10 8 7 5	
♣ —	



♠ A J 5
♥ A 9 4 2
♦ K 3 2
♣ —

West	North <i>pasa49</i>	East	South <i>profx</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer now leads the ♦ 2 from dummy and it's your play...

Focus on your decision, not Partner's [awful!] play in Clubs.

Adoring Aces

Board 6
East Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10		♠ Q 9 8 7 6 4 2
♥ Q 8 7 6		♥ K 10 5
♦ A 10 8 7 5		♦ 4
♣ A K 6		♣ 8 2
	N W E S	
		♠ K
		♥ J 3
		♦ Q J 9 6
		♣ Q J 10 9 5 4
		♠ A J 5 3
		♥ A 9 4 2
		♦ K 3 2
		♣ 7 3

West	North	East	South
	<i>pasa49</i>		<i>profx</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Going up with the ♦ A gives away a trick. Declarer will throw away a ♥ on the ♦ K to win 11 tricks.

Patience with Aces

Defensive note:

E made a terrible lead. The correct lead from that holding is the ♣ Q. How would West defend with the proper Club lead?