

an underlead

Contract: 4S by South.

97
 106
 A 1072
 A K J 109

N	♠ 432
E	♥ QJ97
	♦ 84
S	♣ 7542

A Q J 1085
 85
 Q96
 Q8

5. Game all; dealer South. Contract: 4S by South.

♠ 1064
 ♥ K52
 ♦ KQ1096
 ♣ QJ

♠ A852
 ♥ A Q 1074
 ♦ 74
 ♣ 109

	N	
W		E
	S	

The bidding

S	N
1♠	2♦
3♦	3♣
4♠	

Which card should West lead and how should he plan the defence?

the ace. This requests partner to
 t round and, of course, guarantees
 is singleton. West continues with
 the ♥J. East now switches to the
 ve and ace. Declarer tries the spade
 ishes the ♦K. To rub it in he then
 ff. Down two.

cates the top two cards in a suit and
 the second, either to avoid the
 the lead, play the queen on the first
 that you have the knave. In the
 ld have succeeded unless West had
 n lead at trick two.

The forcing game

5. Game all; dealer South. Contract: 4S by South.

♠ 1064		♠ 3
♥ K52		♥ 9863
♦ KQ1096		♦ A3
♣ QJ		♣ 875432
♠ A852	N	♠ 3
♥ AQ1074	W	♥ 9863
♦ 74	E	♦ A3
♣ 109	S	♣ 875432
		♠ KQJ97
		♥ J
		♦ J852
		♣ AK6

The defence

West should lead the ♥A and continue the suit. With four trumps to an honour West should try to weaken declarer's trump holding. If declarer plays trumps West should withhold the ♠A until the third round. Suppose dummy wins the second trick with the ♥K and plays trumps. West ducks for two rounds, and now declarer is in a quandary. If he continues with a third trump, West wins and plays another heart. South has to ruff but he is reduced to the same number of trumps as West and he still has to dislodge the ♦A. Alternatively, if declarer plays a diamond after the second round of trumps, East wins and continues hearts. Declarer must ruff, but then when he plays a spade West wins, and a fourth heart leaves declarer no effective counter.

The principle

When holding four trumps, especially if they are headed by an honour or tenace, always consider a forcing defence. This usually means attacking with your long suit. Note the ancillary point of withholding your ace of trumps until you can exhaust those in dummy.

6. Game all; dealer South.

♠ 72
♥ J5
♦ A
♣ J4

w

The bidding

S	N
2♣	2♦
2NT	3NT

West leads the five of spades. defence?