

### Failure to Lead Trumps

cost the defence a trump trick but it would have gained no fewer than three tricks in return, ensuring a penalty of 500.

This deal from a rubber game hammers home the same old lesson.

	♠ — ♥ Q 10 8 7 4 ♦ A 9 7 3 2 ♣ 10 5 4	♠ K Q J 7 6 3 ♥ — ♦ Q 10 8 4 ♣ A 7 2	
♠ 10 8 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ K J 6 ♣ Q 8 6 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                     N E W S                 </div> ♠ A 9 5 4 2 ♥ K J 6 3 ♦ 5 ♣ K J 9	North East 1 ♠ 3 ♠ Double All pass	South — 4 ♥
Love all Dealer North	West 2 ♣ Double	North East 1 ♠ 3 ♠ Double All pass	South — 4 ♥

On the lead of the ten of spades South discarded a club from dummy and won with the ace. Leading a diamond to the ace, he continued with a diamond ruff, a spade ruff, another diamond ruff and another spade ruff. A fourth diamond was then ruffed with the king of hearts. West over-ruffed with the ace and led a trump, and the declarer played the queen from the table, felling his own knave. When the established nine of diamonds was led from dummy West could do no better than ruff and return his last trump. The declarer then had to guess the club position, but in view of the bidding this was not too difficult and he duly scored the tenth trick with his king.

After the initial spade lead the defence was helpless. Knowing his side to have more than half the points in the pack, West's aim should have been to draw the declarer's small trumps before they could be used for ruffing.

### Failure to Lead Trumps

On the obvious lead of the ace and another heart the declarer is unable to establish dummy's diamond suit and the contract fails.

It is a pity that there is such a strong prejudice against leading singleton trumps. Obviously there are times when the lead of a singleton trump is undesirable, but when the bidding shrieks for a trump lead the holding in the suit is immaterial.

Here is a wild hand from the match between Sweden and Italy in the 1967 European Championships at Dublin.

	♠ Q 10 9 7 5 4 2 ♥ — ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ A Q 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                     N E W S                 </div> ♠ J 6 3 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 10 9 6 4 3	
♠ A K 8 ♥ A 10 9 6 ♦ K ♣ K J 8 7 2	East-West game Dealer East	North East Q J 7 5 4 3 A Q J 9 6 5 3	South 1 ♦ 5 ♦
West Double —	North East 4 ♠ 6 ♦ All pass	North East — —	South 1 ♦ 5 ♦

This inelegant sequence occurred when Sweden held the North-South cards. Although not a very good slam, it happens to be unbeatable on any lead but a trump. After ruffing three hearts in dummy South is in the fortunate position of being unable to take the diamond finesse and thus cannot go wrong.

Few players would produce the right lead from the West hand, but the Italian defender, Bellentani, made no mistake. Out came the king of diamonds and the contract had to go down.

In the other room North-South for Italy played in the more