

The full hand was:

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

Often you can locate cards with a surprisingly simple but seldom attempted ruse. Here's a little trick that was pulled by my teammate Robert Wolff:

		NORTH			
	♠	9 8 6 4 2		♠	Q 6 5
	♥	K 7 6		♥	A 5 2
	♦	A Q 8		♦	A J 9
	♣	6 3		♣	J 9 8 7
		SOUTH			
	♠	Q J 10 7 5		♠	9 8 6 4 2
	♥	A J 5		♥	K 7 6
	♦	7		♦	A Q 8
	♣	K J 7 4		♣	6 3
		EAST			
WEST	♠	Q J 10 7 5		♠	Q 6 5
	♥	A J 5		♥	A 5 2
	♦	7		♦	A J 9
	♣	K J 7 4		♣	J 9 8 7

West helped things along by starting with the ace and king of trumps; East followed once and then discarded the club two. The shift to the heart ten was equally painless, and Wolff took East's queen with the ace. All of a sudden Wolff had no worries about anything except the club suit. How do you continue against these obliging defenders?

It looks like East has the club ace or the diamond king for his one-notrump bid. How can you find out which it is? You could take a diamond finesse, and if it works you would be fairly certain East had the club ace. But if the diamond finesse lost you would be down, when with another line you might have succeeded.

What can you do to find out what is happening, without unduly jeopardizing your contract? Try this. Take the diamond ace and lead the queen. East will almost surely cover if he has the king. If East covers, you play West for the club ace. If East does not cover, then you assume West has the diamond king and play East for the club ace. In actual play Wolff tried this, and when East played low he trumped the diamond and reentered dummy for a club lead. Wolff, who has never to my knowledge misplayed a queen, correctly played the club king. As he expected, these were the opposing hands:

		NORTH			
	♠	9 8 6 4 2		♠	Q 3
	♥	K 7 6		♥	Q 3
	♦	A Q 8		♦	J 6 4 3 2
	♣	6 3		♣	A 9 8 5 2
		SOUTH			
	♠	Q J 10 7 5		♠	9 8 6 4 2
	♥	A J 5		♥	K 7 6
	♦	7		♦	A Q 8
	♣	K J 7 4		♣	6 3
		EAST			
WEST	♠	A K		♠	Q 3
	♥	10 9 8 4 2		♥	Q 3
	♦	K 10 9 5		♦	J 6 4 3 2
	♣	Q 10		♣	A 9 8 5 2