

October Problem

♠A K J 10 9
 ♥A 5 4
 ♦10 6
 ♣J 7 6

♠7 3
 ♥Q 10 7 6
 ♦K Q J 5
 ♣10 9 5



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
All Pass			

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♦K	6	9	A
2. S	♥K	7	4	8
3. S	♥J	Q	A	2
4. N	♥5	3	♠Q	7
5. N	♠5	3	9	2
6. W	♠A	4	5	7
7. S	♠K	6	♣2	♥10

South's 2NT showed a maximum opening notrump after North transferred to spades. You led the king of diamonds against South's six spade contract. South won, played three rounds of hearts, trumping the third in hand, and started trumps. Plan the defense as South runs the rest of dummy's spades.

As is our custom, a Raleigh Bridge Club free play will go to the correct answer from the RBC member with the fewest masterpoints. "Correct" is a relative term; just saying "I lead X," even if X is the winning play, will probably not qualify unless nobody else finds the play. You need to furnish some justification for your play. (On the other hand, a briefly or poorly stated but correct justification will fully qualify, if I can figure it out. This is not an essay contest.) I am the sole judge of what constitutes "correct." Entries from non-RBC members are welcome and may receive mention next month, but of course will not gain the free-play prize. Send answers to JohnCTorrey@aol.com.

September Problem

IMPs

1.

♠8 2											
♥Q J 8											
♦J 10 8 3											
♣A Q 8 3											
♠K 4	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠J 10 9 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥K 10 7		♥5 2									
♦Q 9 7 2		♦A 6 5									
♣J 7 6 4		♣K 10 9 2									
	♠A Q 6 5 3										
	♥A 9 6 4 3										
	♦K 4										
N-S Vul	♣5										

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

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♦2	3	A	4
2. E	♦6	K	7	8
3. S	♣5	6	A	10
4. N	♠2	J	Q	K

You led the two of diamonds to South's four heart contract. Partner won the ace and returned the six, won by South's king. South entered dummy with the ace of clubs and led a spade to partner's jack, South's queen, and your king. Plan the defense.

Partner's jack of spades is a useful signal, showing a solid sequence in the suit.

This problem drew three basic solutions:

1. Lead a trump. When South attempts to ruff the third spade, ruff high with the king and lead the second trump round. The trouble with this is that South easily makes the hand. There will be a trump in dummy for the fourth spade, and the rest of South's hand is high.
2. Lead a diamond. Hope that partner has the nine of hearts and can trump a diamond with it, forcing South's ace. The trouble with this is that it requires an unnecessary assumption – that partner has the nine of trump.
3. The assumption in the second solution is unnecessary because leading the king of heart is a guaranteed solution. South needs to trump two spades in dummy, but each ruff gives you a sure trump trick.

In the old days (over 100 years back) plays like this got Names: Bath Coup, Vienna Coup, and so on. Maybe this could be the Cary Coup. Ashok Damle wins the free play (again!).