Substitute -- Problem

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

	♠ Q 10 6 2		♠ A K 5 4 3
	♡ K Q 2		♡ J
	◇ 9 6 4 2		◇ K J 8
	♣ 10 9		♣ A Q 6 2

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
			Pass
Pass	2 ♡	Dbl	Pass
2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠	All pass

4 ♠ by West
Lead: ◇ 10

Playing in an A/X matchpoint pairs event at the Nashville regional, plan the play as West.

Which Diamond? -- Problem

Board 20
West Deals
Both Vul

	♠ A 6 3
	♡ 3 2
	◇ A K 10 9 7
	♣ 10 7 2

West	North	East	South
	Gary		*Pete*
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

3 NT by East

Playing in an A/X matchpoint pairs event at the Nashville regional, what would be your opening lead as South?

Playing Journalist leads, the ◇ K shows the ace or queen, but does not ask for an unblock. Holding the ♠ A, this will likely set the contract if any player has a doubleton ◇ Q or ◇ J.

The ◇ 10 shows an *interior sequence*, that is, either the jack or nine, plus at least one higher card that is out of sequence.

Of course, you could also make a more passive lead of the ♡ 3, ♣ 2 or ♣ 7.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Substitute -- Solution</td><td colspan="2">Which Diamond? -- Solution</td></tr>
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Substitute -- Solution

Board 7	♠ 7
South Deals	♡ A 10 7 5 4 3
Both Vul	◇ 10
	♣ K J 8 4 3

♠ Q 10 6 2	♠ A K 5 4 3
♡ K Q 2	♡ J
◇ 9 6 4 2	◇ K J 8
♣ 10 9	♣ A Q 6 2

♠ J 9 8
♡ 9 8 6
◇ A Q 7 5 3
♣ 7 5

EW 3N; EW 3♠; NS 2♡; EW 3◇; EW 1♣;
Par −500: NS 4♡×−2

West	North	East	South
Gary		*Nancy/Pete*	
			Pass
Pass	2 ♡	Dbl	Pass
2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠	All pass

4 ♠ by West
Made 4 — EW +620

Which Diamond? -- Solution

Board 20	♠ 10 9 7
West Deals	♡ 9 7 5 4
Both Vul	◇ 3 2
	♣ K Q 5 4

♠ J 4 2	♠ K Q 8 5
♡ A K 10 8	♡ Q J 6
◇ 8 4	◇ Q J 6 5
♣ J 8 6 3	♣ A 9

♠ A 6 3
♡ 3 2
◇ A K 10 9 7
♣ 10 7 2

E 3N; E 3♠; W 2N; W 2♠; EW 2♡; EW 1◇;
EW 1♣; Par −600

West	North	East	South
	Gary		*Pete*
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

3 NT by East
Made 4 — EW +630

In this first session of the event, they did not know in advance, of course, how many tables there would be. I was half way through the third week of what turned into a doozy of a chest cold, just the cough remaining. We finished playing at table 12, and I thought Gary went out into the hall. I went out myself, came back, saw the people that we were following playing at the next table, and wandered around for a while. It turns out they were at table 1, and table 13 was off to the side. I found table 13 after a while, and took over playing the dummy for director Nancy, who had filled in during my absence. Gary gave me a brief description of the story, from which I reconstructed the auction.
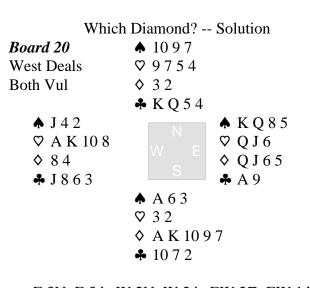
Gary played *low* from dummy, on the lead of the ◇ 10. So did South, and the contract could no longer be set. I got there just as Gary was discarding dummy's remaining diamonds on the ♡ KQ. More mistakes are made at trick one than at any other time.

Nancy, Gary & I had a good time for the next few days, joking about putting her in, when we needed a good board.

Much of the time, I prefer passive leads at matchpoints, but this time I went for the kill, leading the ◇ K. I switched, but declarer made four by playing on clubs. The ◇ 10 lead would have assured that declarer made only three, since he would go down by yielding a club to North.

After a heart lead, declarer would have to win on dummy and lead a club to bring home 3 NT. If North splits his honors, declarer wins and runs the ♣ 9. This produces three club tricks on the lie of the cards, making four. If North ducks, declarer finesses the ♣ 9, which holds; but accurate defense now holds declarer to three.

A simulation of 1,000 deals played by GIB on each of the four leads produced these results:

	DD	◇ K	◇ 10	♣ 2	♡ 3
Av Tricks	7.90	8.02	8.28	8.90	8.96
Set 3 NT	75%	74%	64%	32%	31%

Double dummy (DD) results always include the correct lead, an unfair advantage. The ◇ K is amazingly good with GIB play, but the ◇ 10 or perhaps the ♡ 3 would have scored better this time.

[Methodology on next page]

Snapdragon Double

Board 26　　　　♠ Q J 7 6 3
East Deals　　　　♡ 10 6 5 4
Both Vul　　　　　♢ A 3 2
　　　　　　　　　♣ A

　♠ K 10 8　　　　　　　　♠ 4 2
　♡ A Q J 7 2　　　　　　♡ 9 8 3
　♢ K 8　　　　　　　　　♢ Q J 9 7 4
　♣ 5 4 3　　　　　　　　♣ Q 8 6

　　　　　　　　　♠ A 9 5
　　　　　　　　　♡ K
　　　　　　　　　♢ 10 6 5
　　　　　　　　　♣ K J 10 9 7 2

S 3♠; N 2♠; EW 2♡; NS 1N; NS 2♣; Par +140

West	North	East	South
Gary		*Pete*	
		Pass	1♣
1♡	1♠	Dbl[1]	2♣
2♢	2 N	All pass	

1. ♢ suit, ♡ tolerance, constructive values.
2 NT by North
Down 3 — NS −300

This was a finely judged defensive auction. I wanted to raise hearts, but did not want a heart lead, so I abused the Snapdragon double. Normally I would have a better hand, and more preference for my own suit (e.g. 5-2, 6-2 or 6-3).

South's 2 ♣ gave Gary the chance to make a great 2 ♢ bid. This allowed me to lead a *low* diamond on the opening lead, making it clear sailing for the defense after that.

The standard meaning of the 1 ♠ response over 1 ♡ is to show *five* spades. Therefore, South should have bid 2 ♠, instead of 2 ♣. North would try for game, and 3 ♠ would be played. South might have recovered by bidding 3 ♠ over 2 NT, although the final contract might then be 4 ♠.

(2019-07-05 2:00 Nashville)

Which Diamond? -- Simulation Methodology

Create 1000 deals with these specs using Dealmaster Pro, and make West always the dealer:
------South cards already dealt:------
　S A 6 3
　H 3 2
　D A K 10 9 7
　C 10 7 2
-------- West Definitions W1->W1 --------
W1 Acc　　HP 9-11　S 0-3
　　　　　　　H 4-4　 D 1-5　 C 1-5
-------- East Definitions E1->E1 --------
E1 Acc　　HP15-17　S 4-5
　Bal　　　H 2-3　 D 2-6

Open the file from Dealmaster Pro with Bridge Composer (BC). Fix DM Pro board numbers:
　Tools > All Boards... > Tools > Renumber All
Save file, which updates all deals with BC data.

Using Cygwin, add these lines after [BCFlags "1f"]:
[Auction "W"]
Pass Pass 1N Pass
2C Pass 2S Pass
3 NT AP
[Play "S"]
DK
The one-line command to do this is:
$ sed <2019-07-NASH.PBN > DK.PBN
'/BCFlags/a[Auction "W"\]\r\nPass Pass 1N P\r\n2C
Pass 2S Pass\r\n3N AP\r\n[Play "S"\]\r\nDK\r'
Open DK.PBN with BC and DD all boards; save.
$ sed <DK.PBN >DT.PBN 's/DK/DT/'
$ sed <DK.PBN >H3.PBN 's/DK/H3/'
$ sed <DK.PBN >C2.PBN 's/DK/C2/'
Open each of the files with BC. Tools > Bridge Bots > {GIB} Bid and Play All Boards.

Done 15+ hours later. Under Cygwin:
$ grep "E NT" DK.PBN | tr -d "[a-zA-Z\ \"\]" >
DD.txt
$ grep "\[Result" C2.PBN | tr -d "[a-zA-Z\ \"\]"
>C2.txt
$ grep "\[Result" DK.PBN | tr -d "[a-zA-Z\ \"\]"
>DK.txt
$ grep "\[Result" DT.PBN | tr -d "[a-zA-Z\ \"\]"
>DT.txt
$ grep "\[Result" H3.PBN | tr -d "[a-zA-Z\ \"\]"
>H3.txt
Paste each resulting file (# tricks) into a column of an Excel spreadsheet, and calculate results.