

Lucky Spade Fit -- Problem

Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 5

♥ 7 5 2

♦ 10 7 5 3

♣ K 4

♠ 6 4

♥ A Q J 8

♦ J 2

♣ A J 10 5 3



West

North

East

South

dhaplayer

barmar

PeteM

Beowulf

Pass

1 ♦

2 ♣

Dbl

3 ♣

3 ♠

All pass

3 ♠ by South

Join my partner, Al Muggia, for this rather amazing practice deal originally played in the quarter-finals of the Spingold NABC+ championship. Declarer was quite lucky to find that trump support on dummy, but luck can even out.

On the lead of the ♣ A, partner (yours truly) signals to continue the suit with the ♣ 2. Accordingly, you lead the ♣ 3 to dummy's king, partner playing the ♣ 9 (odd present count), and declarer playing the ♣ Q. Partner started with four clubs, and declarer is now out.

Declarer leads the ♠ K, which wins; he then plays the ♦ 3 to the ace, and leads the ♠ 9 up to the ♠ Q. Partner wins the ♠ A and shifts the ♥ 10, which holds. You overtake the ♥ 9 with the ♥ J, and cash the ace, partner following and declarer dropping the ♥ K. Here is what you see:

♠ J 5

♥

♦ 10 7 5

♣

♠

♥ Q

♦ J

♣ J 10 5

The contract is already one down, but there may be more. What is your play?

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

Lucky Spade Fit -- Solution

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

West <i>dhaplayer</i>	North <i>barmar</i>	East <i>PeteM</i>	South <i>Beowulf</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
2 ♣	Dbl	3 ♣	3 ♠

All pass

3 ♠ by South

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

1. Upside-down attitude, please continue clubs.

2. Upside-down present count (odd).

Down 3 — NS -150

A club lead clearly won't help, so it's between the heart and the diamond. If partner has the ♦ Q, then leading the ♦ J assures another trick. If partner has the ♠ 10, then the heart promotes a trump trick.

In fact, declarer told us that partner has the ♠ 10. Otherwise, why come to hand to belatedly lead up to dummy's spades? So we lead the ♥ Q. Declarer can do no better than discard a diamond from each hand as partner ruffs the trick.

Here's the amazing thing: despite the sluff-sluff, when partner returns the ♦ 9, declarer must still lose a diamond!