

# HAND OF THE DAY – FRI. AFT.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TAIGABRIDGE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5<br>N dealer<br>NS vul<br><br>♠J8<br>♥KQ765<br>♦K732<br>♣87<br><br>♠KQ765<br>♥93<br>♦JT<br>♣AKJ4 | ♠932<br>♥AJ84<br>♦Q96<br>♣952<br><br>♠AT4<br>♥T2<br>♦A854<br>♣QT63 |
|---|--|

## Don't win the battle but lose the war.

Almost every table will be playing 2♠ by South. West doesn't have quite enough for a 2-level overcall, and as much as North hates his ugly 4333 hand, he feels obligated to raise. What would you lead, as West?

The "textbook" lead is the ♥K. A tempting alternative (almost irresistible, to some) is the doubleton club, hoping to score a third-round ruff. The good news is that if you do lead and continue clubs, you will get your ruff. The bad news is the club ruff, two diamonds, and the ♠A is all you will get. Plus 140 is a tie for top for South.

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|             | Pass         | Pass        | 1♠           |
| Pass        | 2♠           | Pass        | Pass         |
| Pass        |              |             |              |

Look at it from declarer's perspective after a club lead. He's thankful his club finesse was taken for him, but he still has a lot of work to do: he'd like to lead toward the ♠KQ twice to finesse against the

ace, but he has only one obvious entry to the dummy. He'd also like to use the ♦QJT to discard a loser. If the first trick goes ♣8-2-Q-A, declarer's best play is to lead diamonds, and if the defense returns another club, lead another diamond. Now you can cross to the ♥A, discard your losing heart on the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond, and lead a spade toward the king. If clubs break 3-3 you lose just two diamonds and two spades; if clubs are 4-2, West gets his ruff, but you can reach the dummy to repeat the trump finesse by ruffing your 4<sup>th</sup> club yourself.

The heart lead removes dummy's one entry before declarer is ready to use it, as well as establishing a heart trick for the defense. Declarer will have to play very carefully to come up with even 8 tricks (win the ♥A, take one of the black-suit finesses, and exit safely with with a red suit every time he is in his hand.)

See all the Hands of the Day from the sectional, and Hands of the Week from club games every week at <http://taigabridge.com/hotw/> or subscribe to the [bridge-1@lists.uaf.edu](mailto:bridge-1@lists.uaf.edu) mailing list and get the Hand of the Week in your inbox every week!