

Thanks to TIM BOURKE of Australia

Quiz No 2. SWITCH?

Matchpoints, West leads the jack of hearts to dummy's ace. What is the best plan to make twelve tricks?

Dealer :S Nul : None	NORTH ♠K752 ♥A ♦AKJ106 ♣QJ10	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠QJ4 ♥KQ7 ♦Q52 ♣A643	

North	East	South	West
		1 Club	Pass
1 Diamond	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 NT	Pass	6 NT	All Pass

SOLUTION

Your should lead a low spade from dummy at trick two. When East follows low, play the queen. If that holds, return to dummy with a low diamond to the ten to lead a second low spade, playing the jack when East plays low.

This will make three spade tricks automatically when East has a singleton or doubleton ace of spades. The interesting case comes when both the queen and jack of spades hold. You should cash the queen of diamonds next. If West has a singleton or void in diamonds, continue with a spade. However whenever West has at least two diamonds you should cash the diamonds, throwing the four of spades and a low club from hand. Then lead the queen of clubs. This will bring in twelve tricks whenever East has the king of clubs. It also succeeds when the full deal is:

Dealer :S Nul : None	NORTH ♠K752 ♥A ♦AKJ106 ♣QJ10	
WEST ♠82 ♥J1093 ♦974 ♣K982		EAST ♠A1096 ♥86542 ♦83 ♣75
	SOUTH ♠QJ4 ♥KQ7 ♦Q52 ♣A643	

That is, when West began with a small singleton or doubleton in spades and the king of clubs. (When West turns up with three diamonds and follows to two spades, as above, switching to clubs has around an 80% of bring home the contract!)

If West takes one of the spade honours with the ace, you will test the spades. If they turn out to be 3-3 you are home. Otherwise, in most cases, you will need a successful club finesse to get home.