

# Walks like a duck

by Ron Klinger

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

North  
♠ Q104  
♥ 7653  
♦ KQ10  
♣ K72

South  
♠ K3  
♥ A10  
♦ A864  
♣ QJ964

With East-West silent, South opens 1NT (15-17) and North raises to 3NT. Playing attitude leads (low-like), West leads the ♥2: three – jack . . . Which heart do you play as South?

Today's deal is from the 2018 Victor Champion Cup Open Teams in Melbourne.

Match 5: Board 9

East dealer : North-South vulnerable

	North	
	♠ Q104	
	♥ 7653	
	♦ KQ10	
	♣ K72	
West		East
♠ 9652		♠ AJ87
♥ KQ942		♥ J8
♦ 95		♦ J732
♣ 103		♣ A85
	South	
	♠ K3	
	♥ A10	
	♦ A864	
	♣ QJ964	

Datum: N-S 190. Results: N-S 3NT x 20, +660 x 2, +630 x 7, +600 x 8, -100 x 1, -200 x 2.

There are situations where it pays to win trick 1 with the ace and hope the suit is blocked if East began with two honours doubleton. That could be the case in a layout like this:

	North	
	♥ 9854	
West		East
♥ K10632		♥ QJ
	South	
	♥ A70	

That does not apply on the actual layout here. Even if East began with ♥Q-J bare and West with ♥K-9-8-4-2, West can later play the ♥K or overtake East's ♥Q and cash the rest of the hearts, South should duck trick 1, win the ♥8 next and, lucky South, East has both missing aces.

*If it walks like a duck, quacks like a ducks . . . maybe one should duck.*