Walks like a duck

by Ron Klinger

East dealer: North-South vulnerable

North

- **♦** Q104
- **7**653
- ♦ KQ10
- **♣** K72

South

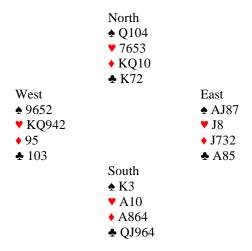
- **♦** K3
- ♥ A10
- ♦ A864
- ♣ QJ964

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.

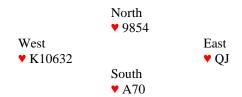
Match 5: Board 9

East dealer: North-South vulnerable



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:



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.