

February 26, 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

If your trump holding is Dummy: J1098 opposite Declarer: A7654 what is the recommended line for losing just one trick if this is possible? Best is to run the spade jack and then, if it loses to the king or queen, cross back to dummy and then run the spade 9. This will lose only to the doubleton KQ offside. Finessing twice is a 5 percent better line than starting with the ace or, running the jack and then playing the ace. There is a similar theme on this hand.

NORTH		S/ EW VUL/ TEAMS
♠	5 3 2	
♥	A 7 4	
♦	6 4 2	
♣	K 8 7 3	
WEST		EAST
♠	K	♠ J 7 6
♥	J 8 3 2	♥ Q 10 9 6
♦	K Q J 9	♦ 10 8 7
♣	Q 10 6 5	♣ J 9 4
SOUTH		
♠	A Q 10 9 8 4	
♥	K 5	
♦	A 5 3	
♣	A 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
PASS	1NT	PASS	3S
PASS	4S	ALL PASS	

Playing teams, on the opening lead of the king of diamonds, declarer's aim is to lose at most one spade trick. The safety play is to start with the ace of spades and, if an honour does not appear, cross to dummy and lead towards the queen. If instead you decide to start with a finesse of the queen of spades, the odds favour next leading to the spade ten. It is easy to see how some went down on the above layout.

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60th GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

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