January 9, 2021 rcb722322@gmail.com Dealer: South Dealer: South Neither Vulnerable Neither Vulnerable West North East West North East South South 1 🛦 1 ♥ **♠** AJ93 **♠** A754 Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♥ Pass 2 🚓 Pass 2 ♦ ♥ J75 **765** Pass 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass 3 🚓 Pass 3 ♥ ♦ QJ94 ♦ K862 Pass Pass Pass Pass 4 ♥ Pass Pass **\$** 85 **4** 93 Pass Dealer: South Dealer: North **AQ108** Neither Vulnerable N-S Vulnerable ♥ A964 **♦** 64 West North East West North East South South ♣ Q83 1 NT Pass 1 ♠ 1 🚓 **♠** Q1054 **♠** 65 **♣** J97 Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 . Pass 2 ♦ Pass 2 NT ♥ K52◆ K875 **9** 865 ♥ J1073 Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ ♦ K962 ♦ J109 Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass ♣ Q5 9542 ♣ AKJ **▲** K432 **♥** Q8 ♦ AQ32 **4** 1076

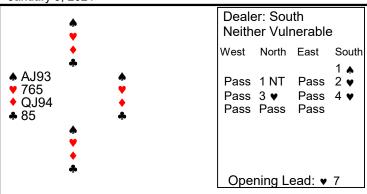
Buck Buchanan

Thinking Like Declarer

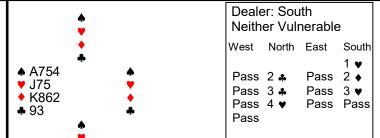
Thinking Like Declarer **Buck Buchanan** January 9, 2021 rcb722322@gmail.com Dealer: South Dealer: North **♠** Q83 ♥ AQ73 **♦** KJ6 **♥** 64 Neither Vulnerable Neither Vulnerable ♦ J432 KQ West North East West South North East South **♣** 96 ♣ A87543 Pass 1 ♠ 1 🛦 1 🚓 **♦** K92 ♠ A52 **♠** 64 **♠** 94 Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass ♥ KJ95 **V** K108 ♥ J972 **♥** 108 3 ♣ 3 ♠ Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass • Q975 **1086** ♦ J109 **♦** 865432 **Pass** ♣ KQ1032 ♣ A85 ♣ KJ106 **+**2 **▲** AJ1075 **♦** Q10873 **9**642 ♥ AQ53 ♦ AK ♦ A7 ♣ J74 ♣ Q9 Dealer: South Dealer: South **♦** K1087 **♠** AK Neither Vulnerable Neither Vulnerable **9** 8 **1095** ♦ KQJ108 ◆ Q832 West North East West North East South South **4** 974 ♣ J642 1 NT 1 ♠ **♦** 94 **♦** 953 ♠ QJ762 **♠** 32 Pass 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass Pass ♥ J7432 ▼ AK96 ♥ J862 **743** Pass Pass Pass Pass ♦ K7 ♦ A54 ♦ 632 ♦ A74 **9873** ♣ K1062 ♣ Q83 ♣ A5 **▲** 1084 AQJ65 **Q**105 AKQ **95** ♦ J1096 AJ5 ♣ KQ10

Opening Lead: A

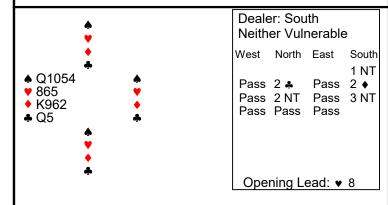
Thinking Like Declarer January 9, 2021



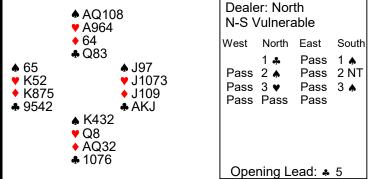
- 1. South has 9 cards in the majors. North has 4+ hearts and is short in spades.
- 2. The bidding was invitational. NS have nothing to spare.
- 3. Declarer may have to ruff spades in dummy instead of relying on brute strength.
- 4. You can lead trump twice to hinder declarer's ability to set up the spade suit.



- 1. South has 6 hearts and 4 diamonds. North has 6 clubs and 2 hearts.
- 2. Neither suggested notrump.
- Declarer might try to throw spade loser(s) on dummy's clubs.
- 4. You can lead the top spade, trying to collect spade trick(s) while you still can.

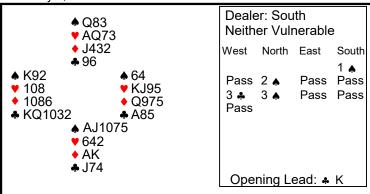


- 1. North does not have a 5-card major and may not even have a 4-carder. South has no biddable major. (Either could have a 5-card minor.)
- 2. North has 8-9 HCP. South has 16-17. Not a point to spare.
- 3. Declarer may have to work for tricks, driving out high cards or taking finesses. Avoid giving declarer any help.
- 4. Play it safe by leading a top-of-nothing heart.



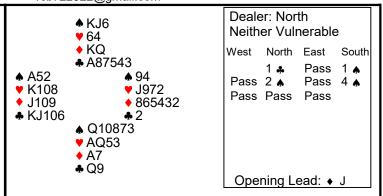
- 1. Where are the HCPs? Give the opponents 22-24, not quite enough for game. You have 6. Partner must have 10-12.
- 2. Does partner's apparent strength tip the balance toward an attacking lead away from one of your kings? No, your suits need too much help to take that risk.
- 3. Go passive. Lead a trump (best) or a club (almost as good).

Thinking Like Declarer January 9, 2021



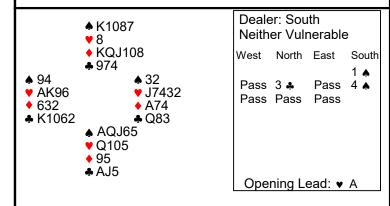
Source: Audrey Grant, Audrey Grant's Better Bridge Nov-Dec 2017

- West, with no idea of how declarer is likely to play, makes the standard *K lead.
- East notes that declarer can't establish either red suit, nor can red-suit honors be promoted. Declarer might, however, try to ruff a club.
- 3. The defense needs to remove some trumps from dummy to prevent this line of play from succeeding. East must overtake West's *K to lead a trump.



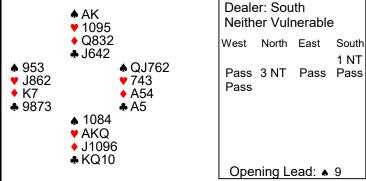
Source: Audrey Grant, Audrey Grant's Better Bridge Nov-Dec 2017

- 1. West knows that declarer can't establish clubs, so leads a safe ϕJ .
- 2. When in with the ΨK , West suspects declarer is trying to ruff hearts in dummy.
- 3. The *A and another spade are led, limiting declarer's ruffs and setting the contract.



Source: Audrey Grant, Audrey Grant's Better Bridge Nov-Dec 2017

- 1. West, the opening leader, knows very little about the hand, so leads the obvious top heart.
- 2. Both East and West can see that declarer will try to use dummy's diamonds and that club tricks must be established quickly.
- 3. Time to defend actively. Knowing that a club switch by West would be safe, East plays a suit preference ♥2. The defense collects ♥A, ◆A, and 2 clubs.



Source: Barbara Seagram & David Bird, "Defensive Play at Bridge: A Quizbook"

- 1. Partner rates to have as many as 11 HCP. Entries will be in partner's hand, not yours. Don't try to make something of your measly hearts.
- North made no effort to find a major suit fit. Good chance partner has 4+ spades.
 Lead a top-of-nothing spade.