

1

♠ AK954	♠ J63
♥ 653	♥ J109
♦ KQ	♦ A9862
♣ 1075	♣ 63
	♠ 82
	♥ 74
	♦ J10543
	♣ KJ84
	♠ Q107
	♥ AKQ82
	♦ 7
	♣ AQ92

Dealer: North
Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠ A

Carding Warfare: Fake News and Alternative Facts, with Derrick Browne. The defenders, unable to see each other's cards, strive to optimise their defence with the help of signals. Declarer throws in misinformation!

Bidding: South becomes declarer in 4H.

Play: West leads a top spade. Declarer falsecards by throwing the SQ. Not only is this intended to look like a singleton, it also makes an uncertain opponent fear setting up dummy's SJ. This West prefers to believe partner's "low like" S2. On the lead of the SK at trick two, East plays the S8, completing the low-high signal. This requests a third round of the suit be led, ruffed by East. Declarer finesses the CQ and ruffs two rounds of clubs, for ten tricks.

2

♠ KQJ106	♠ 93
♥ 1076	♥ K2
♦ A2	♦ 8643
♣ 1095	♣ 87643
	♠ A42
	♥ 854
	♦ KQJ10
	♣ KJ2
	♠ 875
	♥ AQJ93
	♦ 975
	♣ AQ

Dealer: East
N-S vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	1 ♥
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ K

Bidding: West would negative double South's 1H if holding four spades, so the 1S reply promises five. East raises to 2S, and West makes a 3C trial bid, seeking help there. East bids 3D, a counter-trial, saying "I'm unsure whether to accept your invite; I have values in diamonds if that helps". The hearts are a worry and West subsides in 3S, little realising that even 2S was too high!

Play: North loyally leads the HK. Should you play a low like H3, or perhaps even overtake in case the lead is a singleton? Neither! You would rather a club shift so discourage, perhaps a high hate H9. North switches to clubs (for there is no future in diamonds) and you win your A-Q of clubs and HJ then lead the H3 to make partner ruff. Partner gives you the club ruff for two down.

3

♠ 872	♠ J53
♥ 95	♥
♦ QJ64	♦ AK10832
♣ Q1096	♣ AKJ2
	♠ AKQ1094
	♥ K102
	♦ 9
	♣ 743
	♠ 6
	♥ AQJ87643
	♦ 75
	♣ 85

Dealer: South
Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			4 ♥
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥ A

Bidding: On this hand from the 2017 Central Coast Super Congress, South opens 4H. This is passed to East, who ventures 4S. North doubles, pleased to be out of the misfit.

Play: HA was led. North had an immediate signalling decision. All non-trump leads would be great! But discourage diamonds, for you won't get extra tricks from partner leading them. Lazer continued a middle heart (suit preference - or lack thereof). North, Gumby, ruffed then led the CK. Declarer played the C7, so when South played the low like C5, it looked like it could be high hate from 5-4-3. Declarer must have at least one more club (South can't have 8-5-4-3 as he would play 8 with that) so Gumby played a second club and uncovered declarer's antics. Club ruff, heart ruff and a diamond, 1100.

4

♠ QJ103	♠ K74
♥ 4	♥ A987
♦ J106	♦ A9743
♣ 108652	♣ Q
	♠ 9865
	♥ 53
	♦ Q8
	♣ A9743
	♠ A2
	♥ KQJ1062
	♦ K52
	♣ KJ

Dealer: West
Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠ Q

Bidding: North-South overreached on this deal, reaching an "unmakeable" 6H, perhaps on an auction something like the one shown.

Play: The Tricky Game (aka Deceptive Plays in Bridge) by Kelsey featured this from "one of the great masters of deception", Tim Seres. It seems declarer must lose the CA and a deep diamond. After a diamond is conceded to the defenders the suit will be established, but the opponents will grab the CA before clubs can be discarded on the two long diamonds. However, when West led the SQ at trick one, Seres ducked! The obvious spade continuation ensued, and too late did West recognise that East wanted to discourage. Seres was able to draw trumps and play spades, discarding a diamond from hand and then setting up that suit.