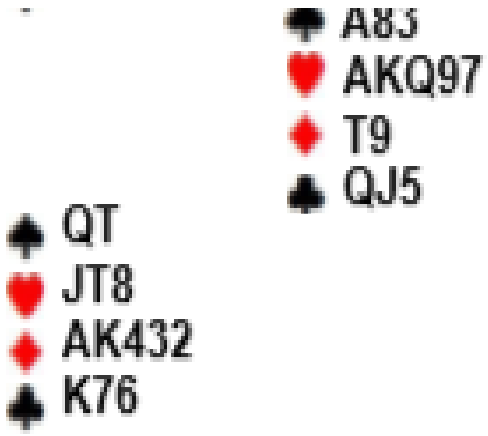
Tricky Trickster



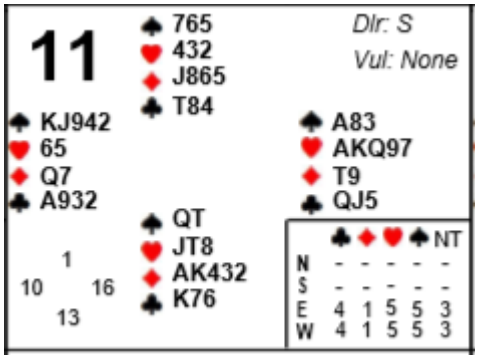
You are, dealer, sitting South with no-one vulnerable. You open 1D, West overcalls 1S, your partner passes and East bids 4S. Your partner leads the 5D and you win the AD and KD, partners follows the second round with the 6D and declarer plays a small diamond, then the QD. If you decide to switch suit, what do you lead?

Thoughts:

Being able to win another trick looks like a forlorn hope to South on this hand. Partner is unlikely to hold as much as a K beyond her inferred JD. It also looks like the hearts in the dummy will run and the club finesse will work.

South found a switch to the 10S. Partner might hold Jxx in spades but even if she doesn't the QS will pop up as declarer prepares to finesse so this switch will cost nothing. It might even prove confusing, as was the case.

This is the board played on Monday, September 30.



Declarer was pleased to see the 10S switch and placed North with Qxx or Qxxx in spades. She played the JS and North "ducked?!" Declarer, thinking North had 4 x spades, now finessed the 8S in dummy only to lose to the QS doubleton, making only 10 tricks versus 11 tricks elsewhere.

This is an excellent example of being very inventive as a defender and making a "silk purse out of a sow's ear".