

For a Future Unit Newsletter and corner

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When an opponent preempts and their preempt is supported by their partner, and you are the declarer, if the preempter leads a suit other than the suit they preempted in, bet that it's a singleton.

| | | | |
|---------|------|------|-----|
| 6 | 4♥S= | 420 | 9.4 |
| Refresh | | 20.1 | 2.2 |

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, there are four boxes containing the numbers 6, 4♥S=, 420, and 9.4. Below these is a 'Refresh' button and two yellow boxes containing 20.1 and 2.2. The main area displays the hands of four players: North (Robot), West (Robot), East (Robot), and South (texashen). North's hand is ♠96542, ♥J5, ♦4, ♣AQJ85. West's hand is ♠108, ♥Q8742, ♦AJ1075, ♣9. East's hand is ♠KJ3, ♥, ♦K98632, ♣K1074. South's hand is ♠AQ7, ♥AK10963, ♦Q, ♣632. The bidding sequence is shown in the center: West opens 2♦, North doubles, East bids 4♦, and South passes. A '4♥ South' indicator is visible in the bottom right corner, along with a score of 0-0.

E 1D (The modern style of featherlight openings with a shapely hand. Some would open this 2D, some would open this 3D and some would pass this. Matter of style.)

S 1H

W 2D

N DBL (Responsive: showing 4+ cards in the 2 unbid suits: spades and clubs)

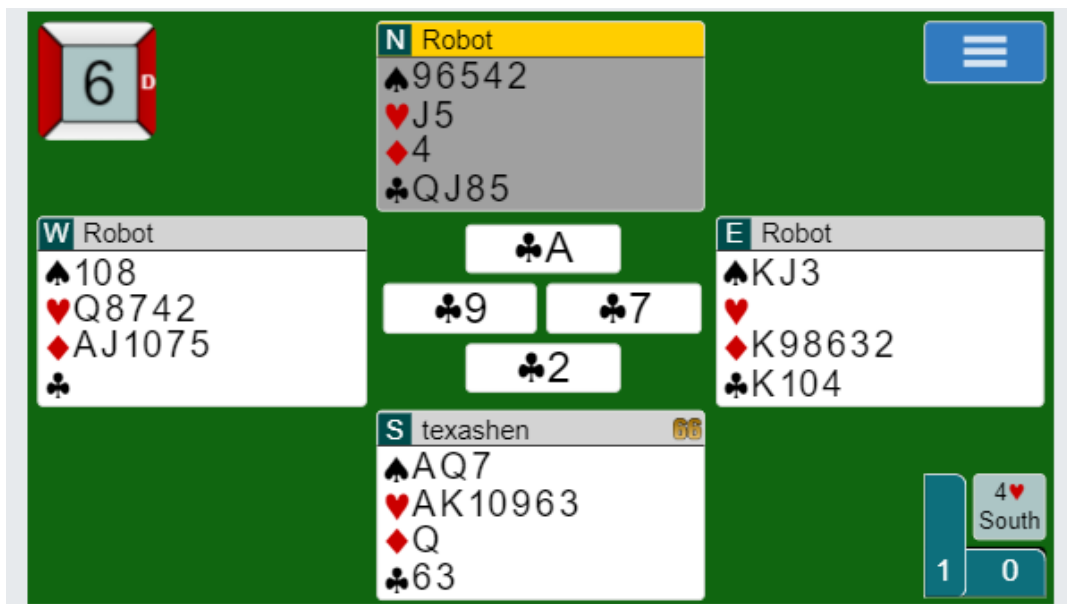
E 4D (6+ diamonds)

S 4H (The opponents took away all the bidding room, so we have to make the best guess. Hopefully partner has a tolerance for hearts)

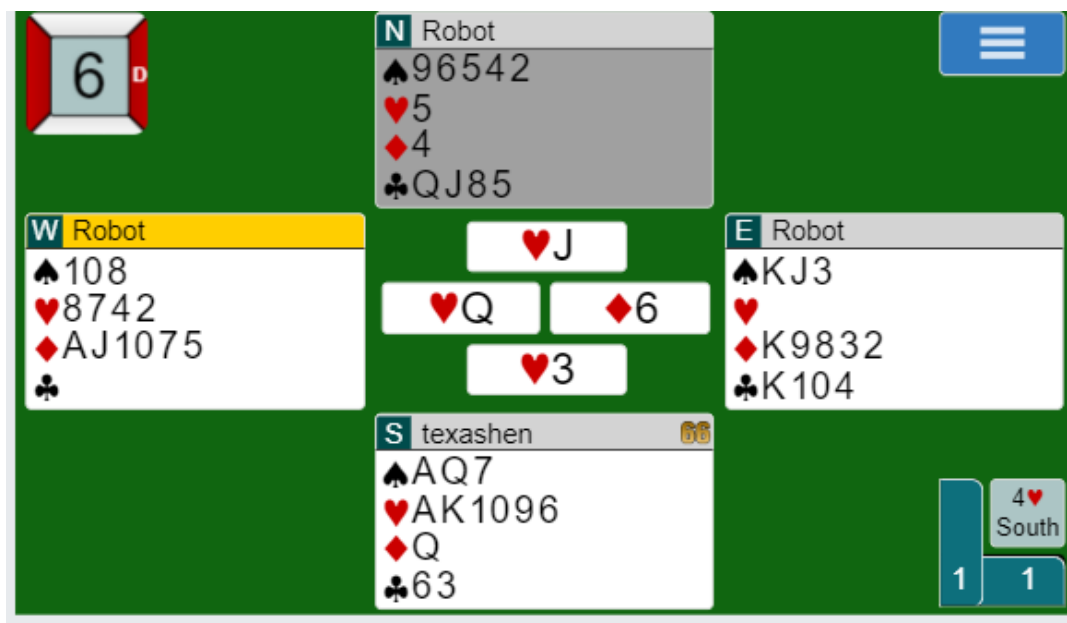
Passed out

West leads the 9 of clubs. This could be a singleton, doubleton or top of nothing lead. However, the normal lead when you have preempted and partner has supported you is to lead the suit you preempted in before those tricks disappear. The 9 of clubs is not a normal lead, it sure looks like a singleton. If it is, we need to win this trick in dummy and not risk the finesse. Then we need to pull trump ASAP.

We win the Ace of clubs.



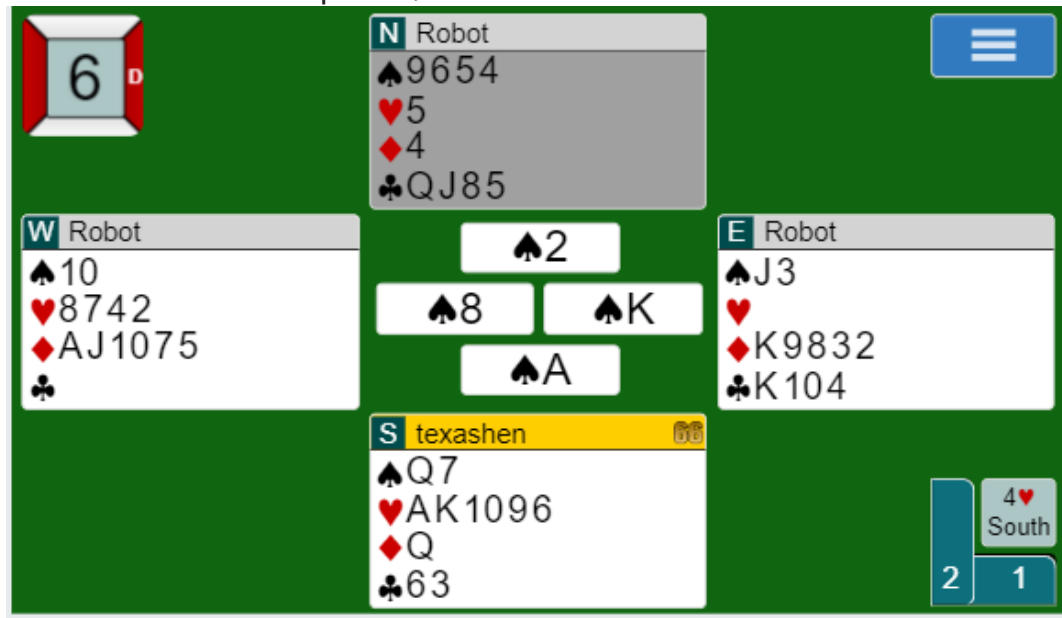
We lead the Jack of hearts and get the bad news about the 5-0 split. After the normal disappointment, we look forward to the challenge of making the contract. We let West win and make West guess what to lead without much information to help West.



The 6 of diamonds is a poor signal to help West with the lead. We would have discarded the 9 of diamonds, asking for a diamond lead so we could cash the King of

clubs and then give West the club ruff. Then the defense gets: 1 heart, 1 diamond, 1 club and a club ruff: setting the contract. But defense is hard.

West tries the 8 of spades, and now it's over:



We pull trump, and give the defense a club and a diamond making 4.

If you care to see the rest of the play, here it is:

<https://tinyurl.com/2etozem5>