

Jim's Lessons Week 4 #2 Don't Break New Suits Unless Necessary

Board 17

North Deals ♠ J 9
 ♥ Q 8 7 5 3
 None Vul ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ 5 4 2

♠ K Q 10 8
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ K Q 9 3
 ♣ K 9 8



♠ 4 3
 ♥ A 10 6 4
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ Q J 10 7 6

♠ A 7 6 5 2
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ J 10 8 2
 ♣ A 3

Don't Break a New Suit Unless Necessary.

Contract: 4 ♠ by East

Lead: Q♣

Declarer won the Q♣ lead with the ace in the East hand and then played 2 rounds of trump (the king and ace of spades). Then declarer led to the king of clubs in the West hand and ruffed a club in the East hand.

EW 4♠; EW 5♦; EW 2N; NS 1♥; NS 1♣;
 Par -420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		
4 ♠ by East			

He now led the 2 of diamonds toward the West Hand. On the play of a diamond from the East hand South had to decide if there was anything to be gained by not taking the ace on the first trick. In this case he had to make a decision before North could give a count signal. After deciding to take the ace, South still had to choose what to do. North had played the 4 ♣ so he probably had three clubs which would give East 4 clubs.

Should he cash the ace of hearts? Should he play another club? If South had played low on the first diamond lead then when he won the 2nd diamond lead, he would have to lead hearts or give declarer a sluff-ruff in clubs. The defender decided to make the declarer play hearts himself. After winning the ace of diamonds South led another diamond. It is very unlikely that East has 6 diamonds so the heart trick is not likely to go away and N/S might even get 2 heart tricks on defense if the declarer must play the heart suit himself. East's opening bid also probably gave him the king of hearts in order to have an opening bid.