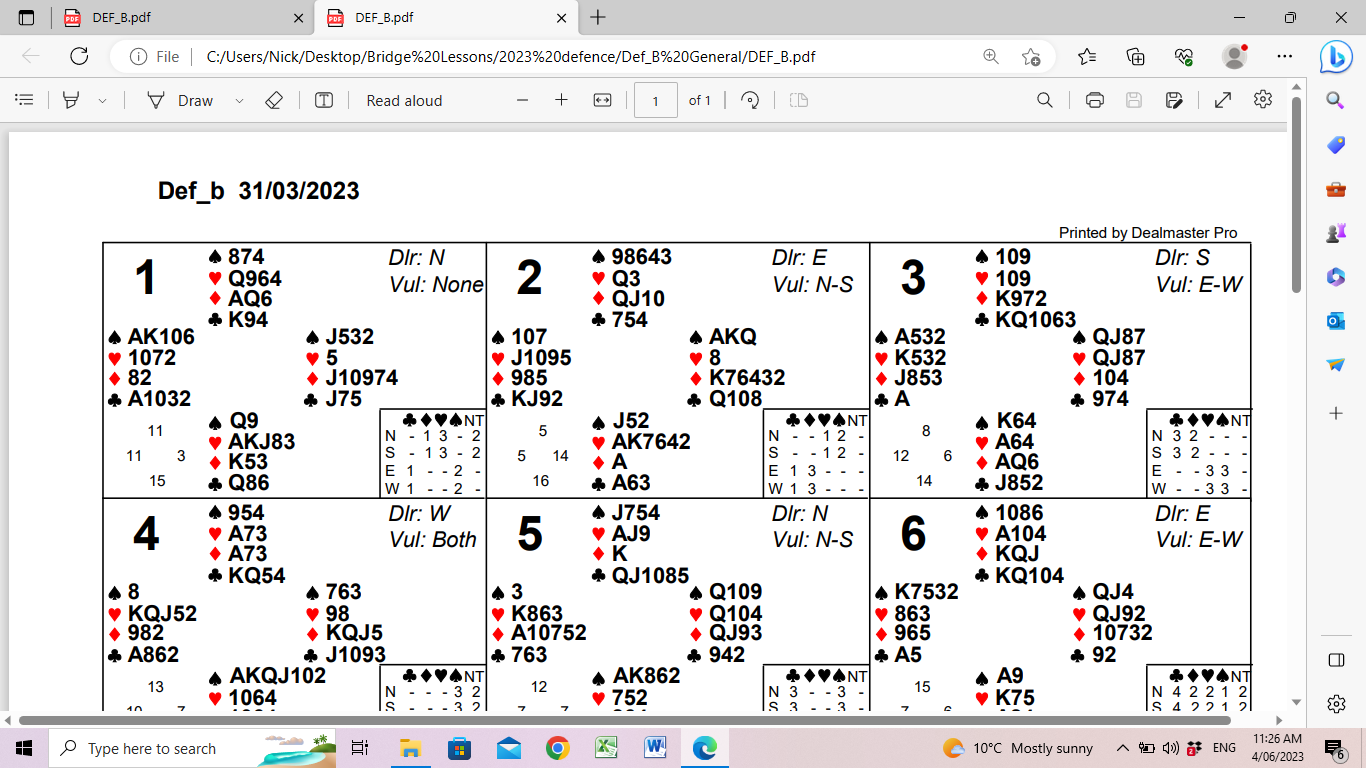
**Board 1 Dealer N Vul none**

**N E S W**

**p p 1**♥ **p**

**3**♥ **p 4**♥ **all pass**

***Play low in second position***



West should start with the ♠A and continue with ♠K and another spade.

Declarer will trump the third round, draw trumps and (best) cash the three diamonds, ending in the South hand, then lead a small club.

*West must play low on that trick.* North’s ♣K will win the first round but West will later get two tricks with the ♣A10.

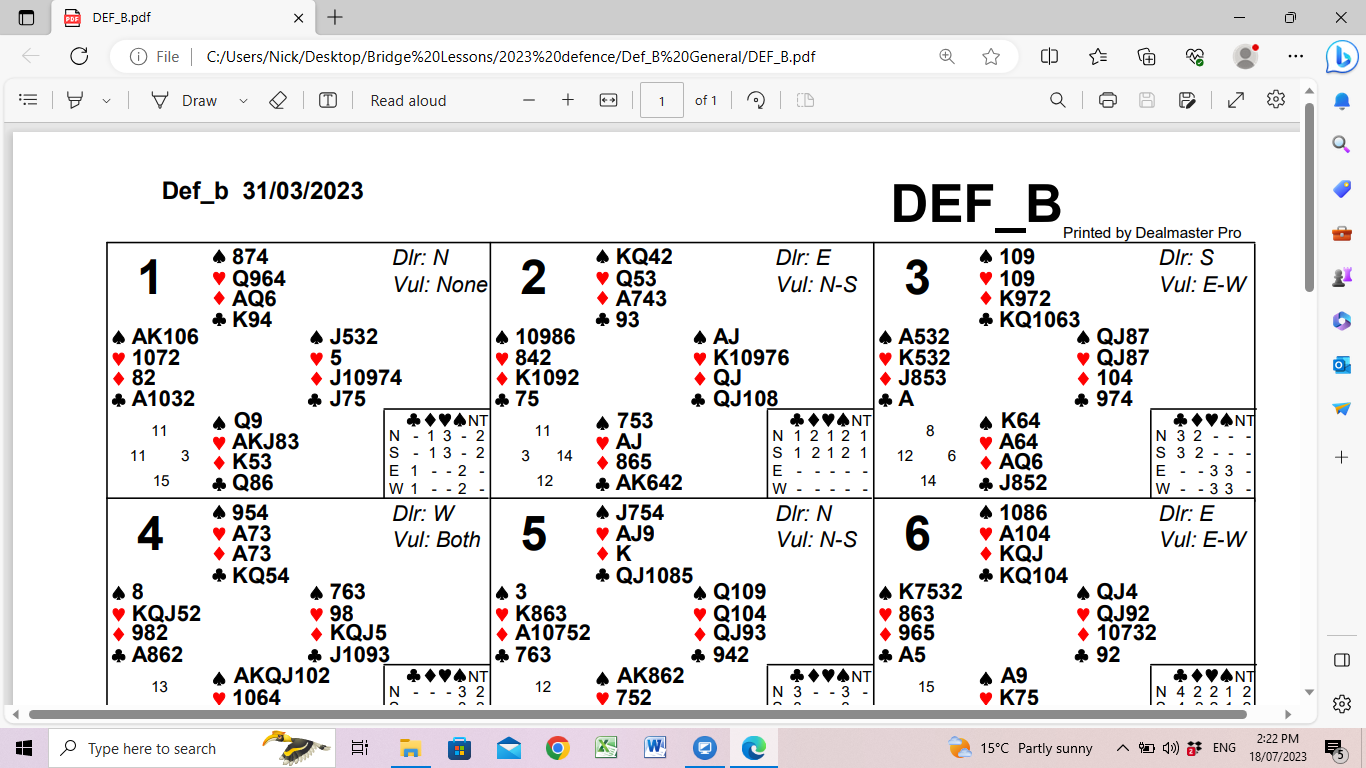
If West were to play ♣A (or ♣10) that would present declarer with two club tricks and the contract.

**Board 2 Dealer E Vul NS**

**E S W N**

**1**♥ **2♣ all pass**

***Assume partner has not led away from an ace***



West should lead a heart, partner’s bid suit.

East here should not lazily play “third hand high” but look a bit deeper.

West would never lead away from an ace so to play ♥K would give declarer an extra trick by promoting dummy’s ♥Q.

If South has ♥J he can’t be prevented from making two heart tricks but playing ♥K would give him three.

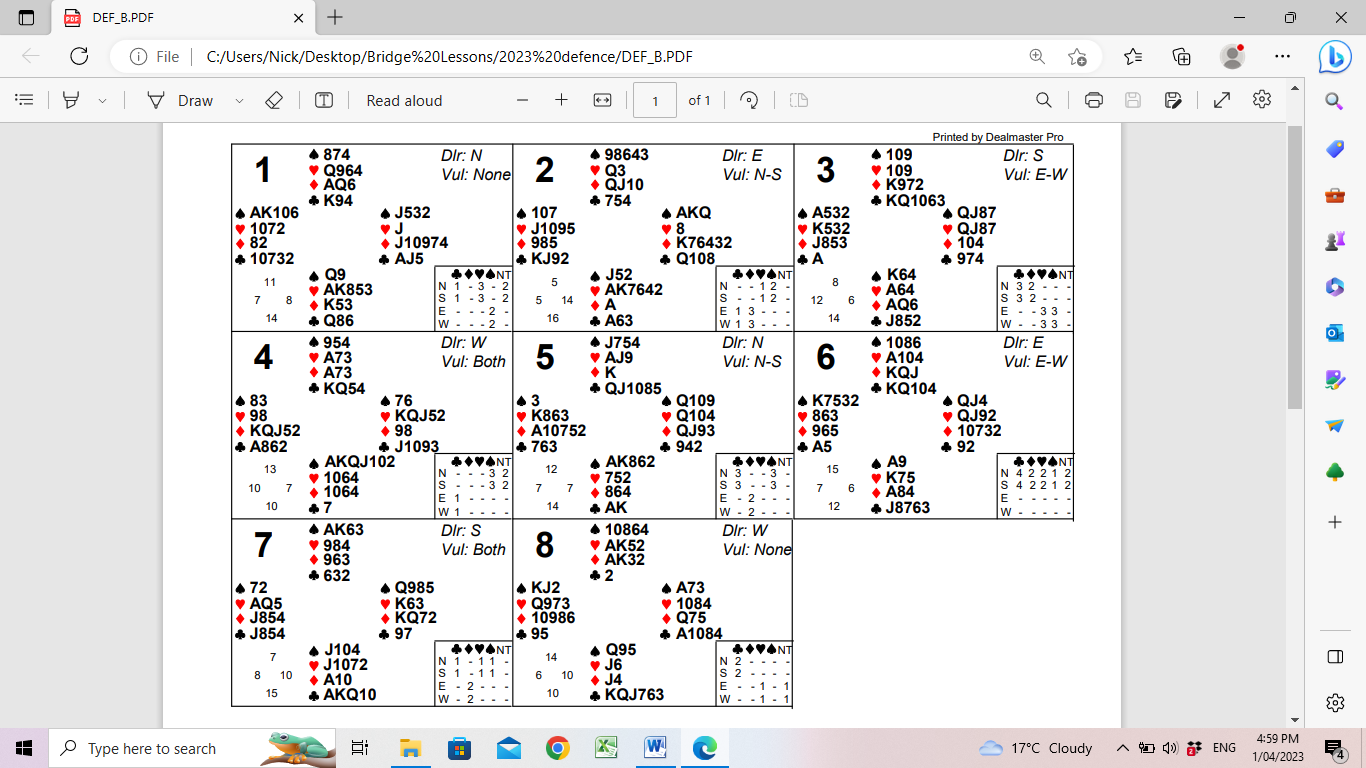
And if West does have ♥J East’s ♥9 would be sufficient to force out declarer’s ♥A

**Board 3 Dealer S Vul EW**

**S W N E**

**1NT all pass**

***Prefer lead from king rather than ace***



Other things being equal (which they are here!) the preferred lead is the suit ***not*** headed by the ace.

When the ♥2 is led, South takes East’s ♥J (not ♥Q!) with ♥A and leads a club to set up that suit.

West wins and leads ♥K and another heart won by East. (That order is so East is on lead when the last heart is taken).

East then leads ♠Q (♠QJ98 is effectively a *solid* sequence as dummy’s ♠109 will be smothered) and East-West get four more spade tricks.

If the opening lead was a spade declarer would still have the ♥A after losing to the ♣A and not lose any heart tricks.

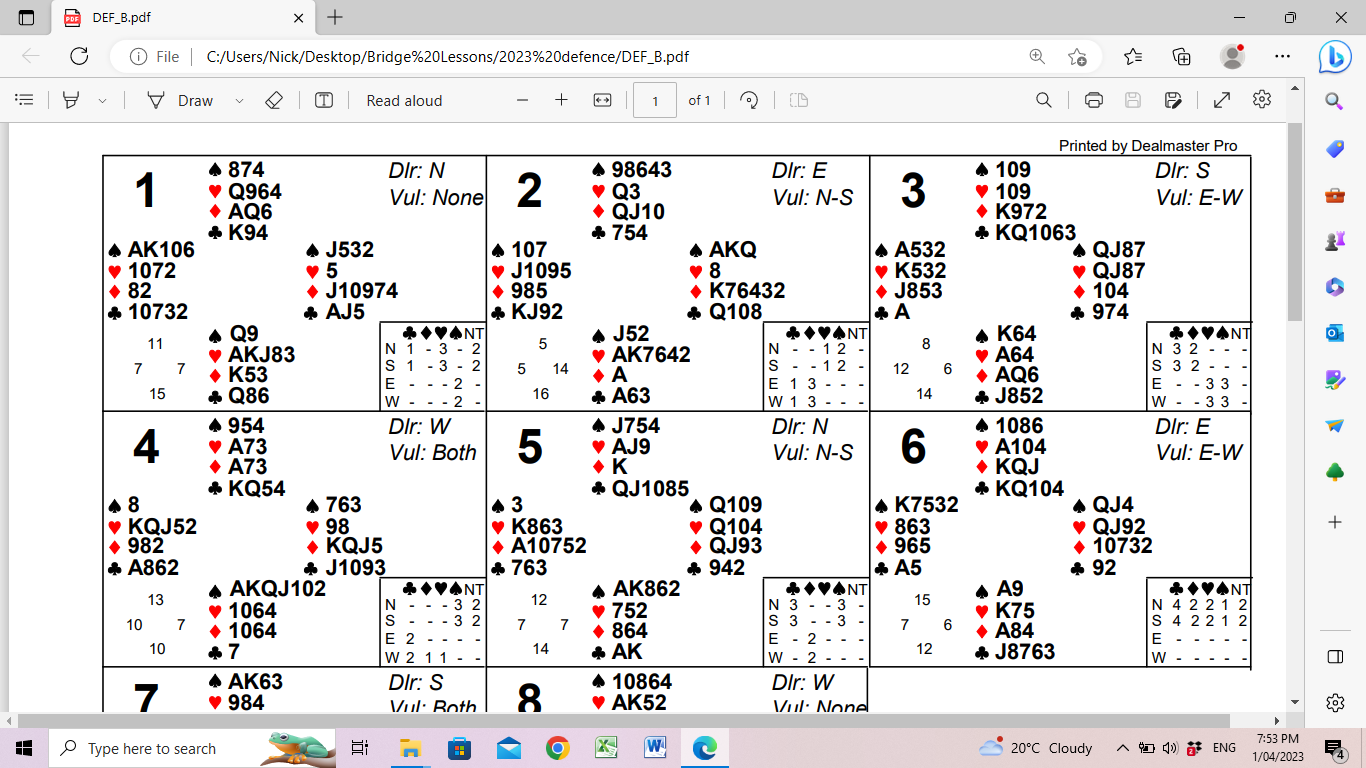
**Board 4 Dealer W Vul all**

**W N E S**

**p 1NT p 4**♠

**all pass**

***Play low in second position***



West leads ♥K and declarer will win, draw trumps, and lead a club.

West must play low on this trick! “But what if declarer’s club is a singleton and I lose my ♣A?” might be asked.

Actually it ***is*** a singleton and the ♣A is lost, but to win ♣A immediately will enable declarer to discard two red suit losers on the ♣KQ later.

So losing the ♣A is more than compensated for by winning two diamond tricks.

Note if South did have two clubs and one less red card 4♠ would be unbeatable.

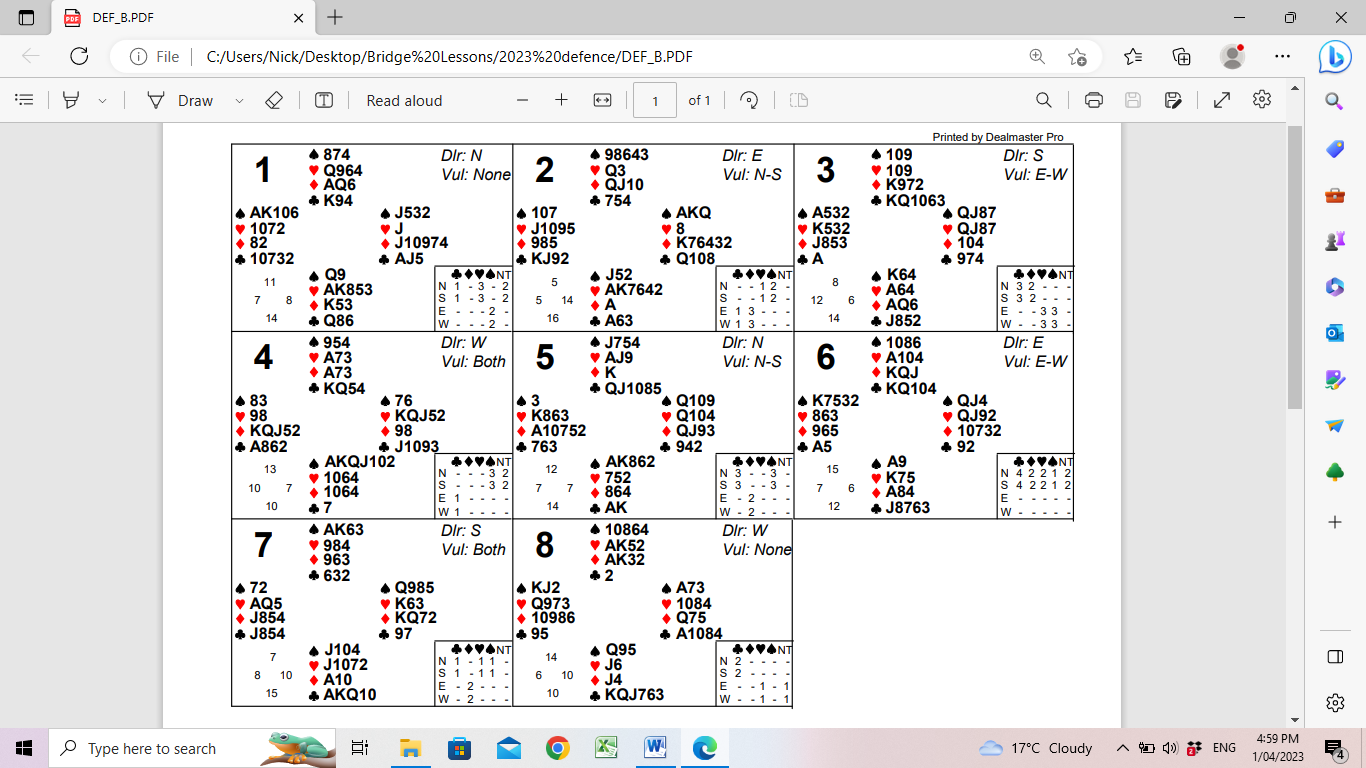
**Board 5 Dealer N Vul NS**

**N E S W**

**1♣ p 1**♠ **p**

**2**♠ **p 4**♠ **all pass**

***Don’t lead away from an ace***



West is likely to find the best lead by elimination. Not clubs (bid by opponents) or trumps (not a good choice with a singleton) and of the red suits prefer the “king” suit over the “ace” suit.

Here the heart lead sets up two tricks for E-W *and* removes an entry to dummy.

Leading the ♦A or a black suit allows declarer to discard two heart losers on the clubs after drawing two rounds of trumps and leading ♣AK.

But if West leads a s*m*all diamond away from the ace: *disaster!* East-West will make only one trick (a trump) and declarer makes 6♠!

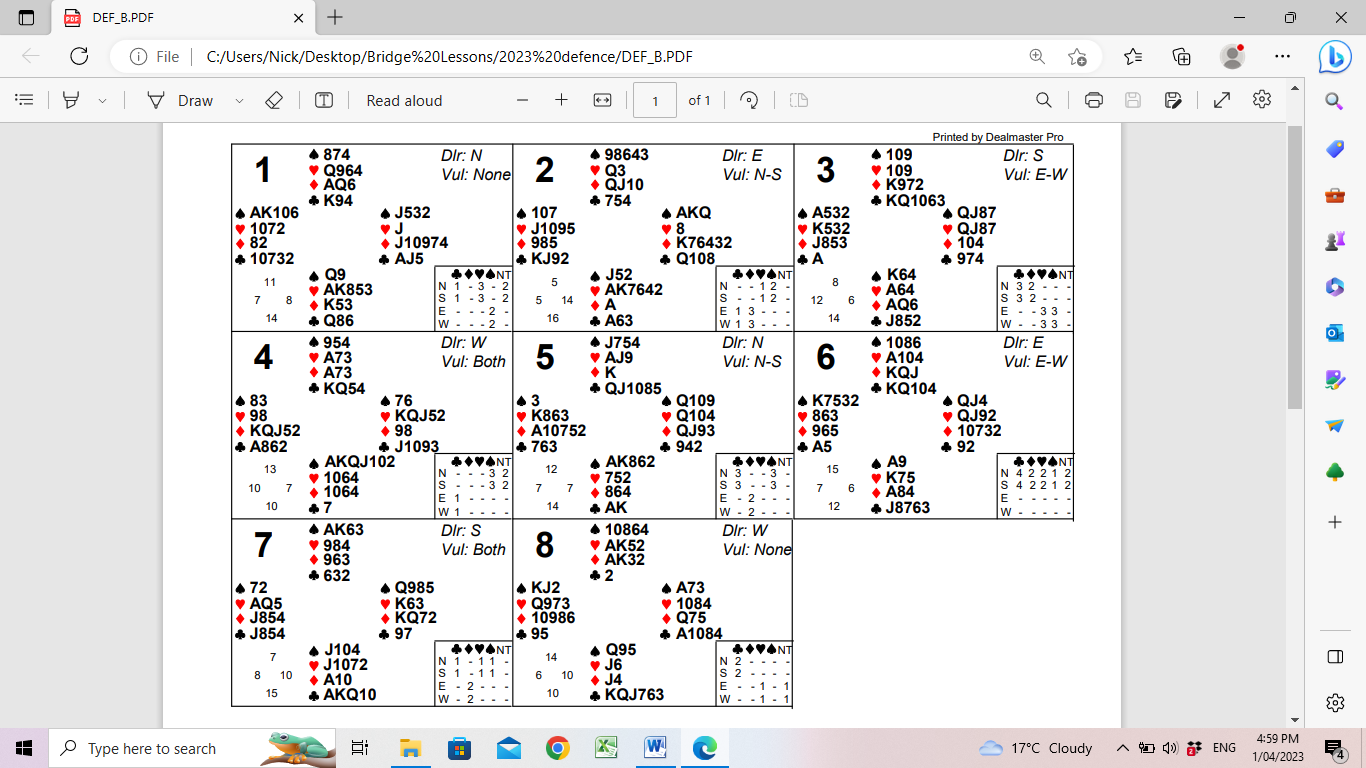
**Board 6 Dealer E Vul EW**

**E S W N**

**p 1NT p 3NT**

**all pass**

***Third hand play high but lowest of a sequence of “equal-highest” cards***



West should start with the longest suit and lead ♠3, the fourth card of the suit when there is no sequence. East must play ♠J, lowest of card of “equal highest”.

Playing ♠J doesn’t confirm or deny also holding ♠Q but West can “see” ♠Q in East’s hand when declarer has to use the ♠A to win the trick.

After winning with the ♣A West leads a *small* spade. East wins ♠Q then leads his last spade giving E-W four spade tricks.

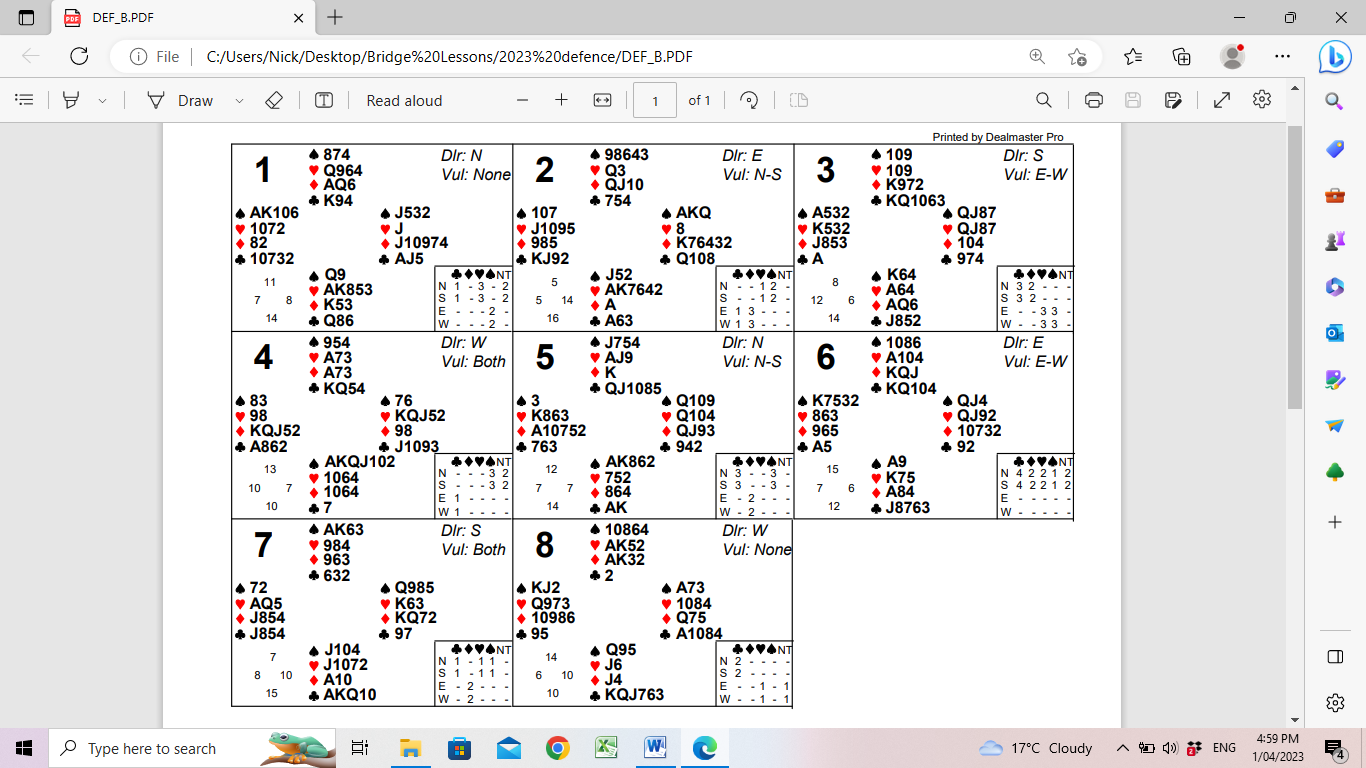
**Board 7 Dealer S Vul all**

**S W N E**

**1♣ p 1**♠ **p**

**1NT all pass**

***Avoid leading opponents bid suit***



West should lead ♦4, the fourth of the longest suit. Although the clubs are similar they should be excluded being the suit declarer has bid.

Declarer has only 6 tricks and the seventh could come from either a finesse in one of the black suits or for the ♣J to drop within three rounds.

None of these works and East West will make one (at least) black-suit trick along with three in each red suit.

An initial lead of a club would present declarer with their seventh trick.

**Board 8 Dealer W Vul none**

**W N E S**

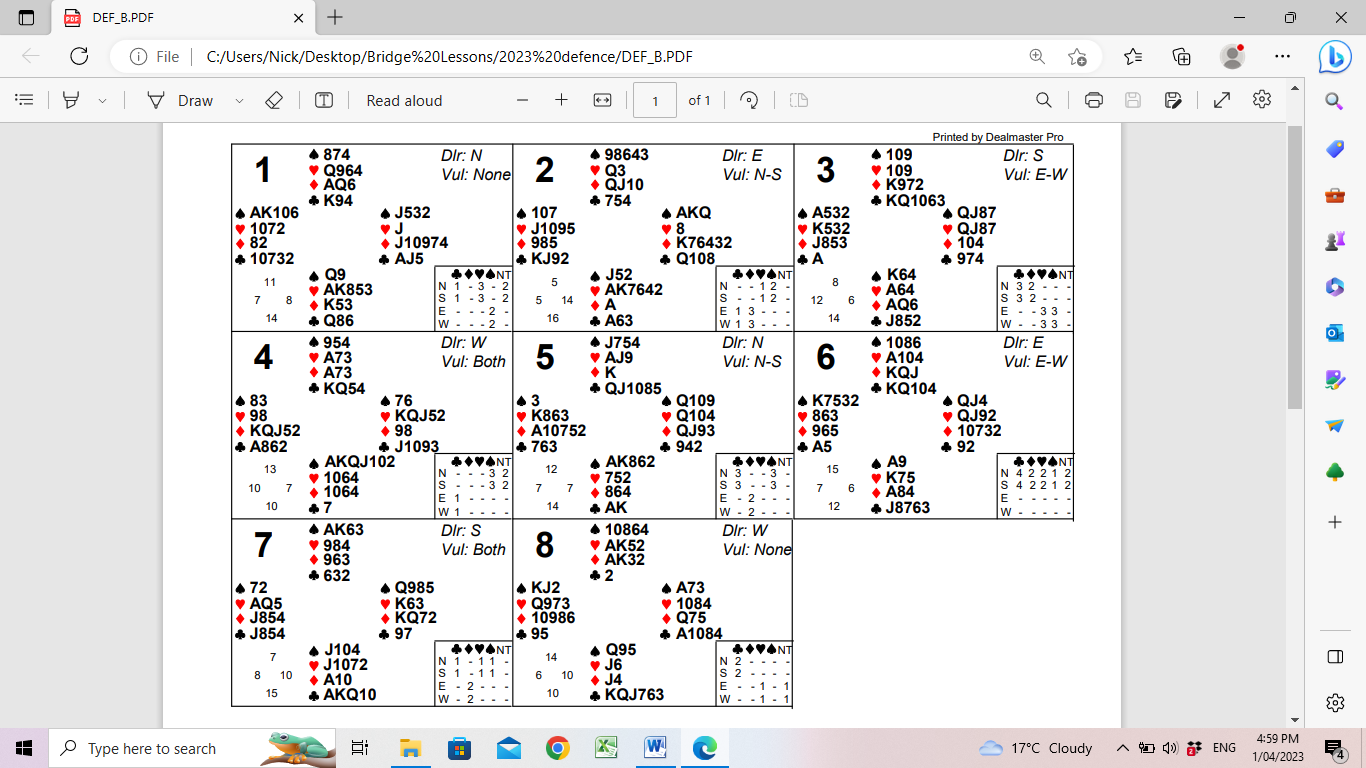
**p 1**♥ **p 2♣**

**p 2**♦ **p 3♣**

**all pass**

***Lead the suit nobody has bid***

***Play low in second position***



As spades is the only unbid suit the ♠2 is likely to be West’s best lead. A spade continuation gives East-West the first three tricks and there will be two trump tricks to follow.

That is provided East plays the ♣4 when the club is led from the table. If East plays the ♣A the second trump trick disappears and 3♣ will be made.

East should not even play the ♣8 as an astute declarer will then have a chance to avoid a second club loser by promoting the ♣7.