

May 2018 Hand of the Month

Fairlawn Bridge Club

Board 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 8 5		
♥ 8 7 5 4		
♦ K Q 5		
♣ J 10 8 3		

♠ K 7 6 4		♠ A Q J 10
♥ A 10 9 6	N	♥ Q J 3
♦ 2	W E	♦ 9 7 6 4
♣ 7 6 5 4	S	♣ 9 2

♠ 9 3 2
♥ K 2
♦ A J 10 8 3
♣ A K Q

Hand # 21 at the Fairlawn game on May 10, 2018 presents a common problem on opening lead.

The auction was opened by South with 1NT and West is on lead. If you are choosing an opening lead against a NT part score or a NT game (does not apply to slam opening lead), and you have two somewhat equal suits which one do you choose? It is truly a guess. But if one of the suits is headed by an Ace and the other by a lower honor, lead the suit headed by the honor saving the Ace for an entry later.

It does not always work, but on this hand a Heart lead let's declarer make 4 NT. A Spade lead beats 1NT. If the heart lead in the future works better, forget this lesson. Only trying to help.