Exercise 4H53 | # Beat Four Hearts! | **by Richard Pavlicek**

As *West* or *East*, decide your defense. South opened 1 ♥, North bid 2 ♥ and South 4 ♥.

1. 4 ♥

North: ♠ 4 2 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ A K 9 7 6 ♣ 10 8 2

West: ♠ A K 7 5 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ 3 ♣ 7 6 5 4 3

What is your lead? ♠ K

East plays the queen and South the six. Which card do you lead next? ♦ 3

South wins the queen and leads the ♥ 5. Which heart do you play? ♥ A

Which card do you lead next? ♠ 5

2. 4 ♥

North: ♠ A 7 5 2 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ 10 4 ♣ K 7 6 2

West: ♠ J 10 8 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ A Q J ♣ Q J 10 8

What is your lead? ♣ Q

North plays the two, East the five and South the nine. Who has the ♣ A? East

Which card do you lead next? ♥ 7

Declarer wins in dummy and leads the ♦ 4 to his king and your ace. Which card do you lead next? ♥ 6

3. 4 ♥

North: ♠ 4 3 ♥ A 8 5 2 ♦ 9 ♣ J 10 9 6 5 3

West: ♠ K 8 2 ♥ K 9 7 ♦ K Q 7 6 5 ♣ 8 2

What is your lead? ♦ K

East plays the four and South the eight. Who has the ♦ A? East

Which is more threatening? North's singleton *diamond* or the long *club* suit? Clubs

Which card do you lead next? ♦ 6

4. 4 ♥

North: ♠ K 4 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ 7 4 3 2 ♣ J 7 3 2

East: ♠ A Q 10 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 10 9 8 5 ♣ Q 10 9 4

West leads the ♠ 3, North plays the king and you win. How many spades did West probably start with? Four

If not the above, how many spades did West start with? Three

Based on declarer's play, who has the ♠ J? West

Which card do you lead next? ♥ 2

5. 4 ♥

North: ♠ 3 2 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ K J 10 8 5 ♣ A 7 3

East: ♠ A 9 7 6 4 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ 3 ♣ J 10 8 6

West leads the ♠ Q. Which spade do you play? ♠ A

How many trump tricks are you sure to win? One

If you could get a diamond ruff, would it increase the above answer? No

Which card do you lead next? ♣ J

6. 4 ♥

North: ♠ K Q 9 5 4 ♥ J 7 4 2 ♦ 10 8 ♣ 7 3

East: ♠ 6 ♥ A 5 ♦ 9 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ A 10 5 2

West leads the ♣ K. Assuming South has at least two clubs, how many tricks are you able to win? Three

What is your best chance for another trick? ♠ ruff

Which card do you play to the first trick? ♣ A

Which card do you lead at your first opportunity? ♠ 6