

11. Transfers with a six-card major

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♠ K104 ♥ AJ72 ♦ AQ ♣ J932		♠ Q6 ♥ Q65 ♦ KJ1065 ♣ KQ6	
♠ 72 ♥ 843 ♦ 874 ♣ A10875	♠ AJ9853 ♥ K109 ♦ 932 ♣ 4		
W P	N 1NT 2♠	E P P	S 2♥ 4♠
All Pass --North-South Vulnerable--			

Major Holdings:

So far, when partner opens 1NT, one uses Stayman with one or more four-card majors or five-four in the majors. Stayman is used with 8 or more points, and on only very rare occasions, with no points. Transfers, however, are used with either a five-card or longer major or five-five in the majors or better, with zero to 15 points.

The Bidding:

North, with 15-17 points and a balanced hand, opens 1NT. South, with six spades, bids 2 hearts, transferring partner to 2 spades. South knows North has at least two spades so the partnership has the golden eight-card fit, and he can evaluate his hand to the ten points needed for game. With enough points for game and with six spades, he can bid spades a second time, bidding 4 spades not 3NT.

The Opening Lead: King of clubs

East has 13 HCP's so his partner has around 2 HCP's since the opponents may be using distributional points. Against notump, a diamond is the best lead because East is willing to give up a trick or two to

setup his fourth and fifth diamonds. However, against a suit contract, setting up a fourth and fifth diamond does no good when there is trump. The best lead is the king of clubs.

Eight Ever Nine Never:

Dummy ruffs the second club and trump is pulled. Declarer has nine trump so he plays for the drop of the queen of trump. The general guideline for this is called "Eight Ever, Nine Never." Missing the queen of trump and holding nine trump, "never" take the finesse and with eight trump, ever (always) take the finesse.

The queen falls as the rule promises, however, the rule is only to be used when there are no clues to an opponent's distribution or points.

Declarer plays the 9 of clubs and when East plays the queen, declarer discards a diamond from dummy. If West overtakes with the ace, the jack becomes the resting spot for the queen of diamonds. East has the lead, as declarer wishes, and has to break open hearts (play hearts first). To minimize the defensive footprint, the defense wants to break open only one suit, clubs, but since East has three clubs and no more trump, he chooses hearts because there is a chance the declarer would have guessed the heart finesse regardless.

Result: 4 spades makes plus one for +650

Note:

If a player opens a spade and rebids 2 spades, he promises 6 spades. Similarly, if his partner opens 1NT and he transfers, he is showing five spades. Therefore, any subsequent bid of spades shows six or more.