

Your Lead -- Problem

Board 6
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

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



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

Playing matchpoint pairs, what is your lead?

What would you lead, if partner had not doubled 4 ♣?

Board 6
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Your Lead -- Solution

♠ A J 9	♠ Q 10 2	♠ 5 4									
♥ 10 4 3	♥ A Q 7 5 2	♥ J 9 8									
♦ A J 10 8 5 2	♦ Q 3	♦ 7									
♣ 9	♣ A 5 3	♣ Q J 10 8 7 6 2									
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ K 8 7 6 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ K 9 6 4 ♣ K 4											

West	North	East	South
<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>	
	1♥	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♣	Dbl	Pass
Pass	4♠	All pass	
4♠ by South			
Lead: ♦ A			
Down 1 — NS -100			

(deal rotated for convenience)

Without the double, you would normally lead partner's suit. You are entitled to try something else, but if it works out poorly, it's on you.

Lacking an agreement to the contrary, the double of 4♣ shows a strong suit, so you should definitely lead ♣9.

Andrew and I have the sensible agreement that the double of 4♣ shows a bad suit, and suggests leading something else. He said the double made his ♦A opening lead easy. (I would pass for a club lead.)

After my diamond ruff and club to his king, declarer led a spade to the queen and went down (playing for the remaining spades to be 2-2 or for me to have started with doubleton jack).

On the lead of the ♣9, declarer will often make the contract by winning the ♣K and leading a small spade. A second round of spades erases East's ruff, so rising with the ♠Q makes four, and greedily inserting the ♠10 makes five.

An astute West can rise with the ♠A, cash ♦A, and lead the ♦2. Upon ruffing, East returns a club, the low ♦2 having requested the return of the low suit. Declarer must now ruff ♠K and lead to the ♠10 to make the contract -- essentially the same play required after the actual defense.

West might read East's ♣2 on the opening lead as suit preference for diamonds, but getting the lead of the ♦A in the first place is more straightforward.