## Defensive Signals III: Suit Preference

As a defender, there are situations where you wish to communicate to your Partner a suit you want partner to lead when they get the opportunity.

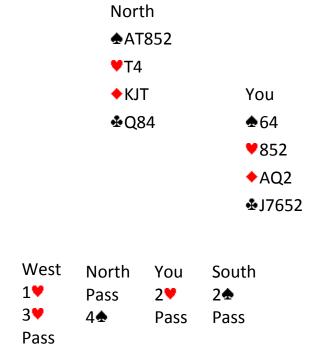
## **Suit Preference Signals**

A typical case occurs when you give Partner a ruff. Leading a high card indicates the higher rank of the two remaining suits; a low card indicates the lower rank of the two remaining suits.

For example, Hearts are trump and after cashing the  $\triangle$ AK, your remaining cards in Spades are  $\triangle$ T63, you hold the  $\triangle$ A, and you expect Partner to trump the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Spades. The two remaining suits are  $\triangle$  and  $\triangle$ , therefore you lead the  $\triangle$ T (high card) in order to encourage Partner to return the higher ranking suit, a Diamond, after ruffing the  $\triangle$ . Alternatively, if you held the  $\triangle$ A, you would lead the  $\triangle$ 3 to suggest a  $\triangle$  return from Partner.

## **Following Suit**

Here is an example of using a suit-preference signal while following suit. After your side bids and raises hearts, South ends up declaring 4♠. Partner leads the ♥A (Ace from Ace-King):



You play the ♥8 (denying the ♥Q using UDCA) at trick one. However, at trick two partner continues with the ♥A. Which card do you follow suit with?

This is a situation in which an <u>attitude signal doesn't make apply</u> because dummy can ruff the 3rd round of Hearts. <u>Neither is it a count situation</u>, since you're already marked with at least three hearts on the auction. Thus it becomes a suit-preference situation; playing your higher card would ask for a switch to the higher side suit (Diamonds), whereas your lower card would ask for a switch to the lower side suit (Clubs).