

Check his pockets

"When someone opens with a preempt and leads his suit, play him for a singleton trump", says Andy Robson in his *Bols Bridge Tip*. Robson was a member of the world champion English junior team two years ago and he is a member of the English open team for the Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama, which starts on Sunday.

It's sensible advice. Most of the time a preempt hand will contain a singleton. If the singleton is in an off-suit it makes a natural lead so the failure to lead an off-suit suggests the shortage is in the trump suit.

Robson explains how he might have used this clue to make this hand.

West deals, neither side vulnerable

	♠ K J 10 4		
	♥ 6 4		
	♦ J 8 4 3		
	♣ K 4 3		
♠ 5 2		♠ Q 7 6	
♥ 8		♥ A 10 7 2	
♦ K 6 5		♦ A Q 7	
♣ A J 10 9 6 5 2		♣ Q 8 7	
	♠ A 9 8 3		
	♥ K Q J 9 5 3		
	♦ 10 9 2		
	♣ --		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3♣	Pass	3NT	4♥
All pass			

You can play the hand [here](#).

West led the ace of clubs. At the table Robson ruffed the lead, crossed to the king of spades and pitched a diamond on the king of clubs before playing a heart to the king. Essentially Robson was playing for trumps to break and the queen of spades to fall in two. Not surprisingly, this didn't happen.

But West's choice of lead, suggesting a trump shortage, might have steered Robson to success. Trump the club, cross to the king of spades and pitch a diamond on the king of clubs, just like before. But now run the jack of spades and if East doesn't cover play a trump to the nine to make the contract. If East covers the jack of spades, play a top heart from hand to extract West's lone trump then cross to dummy's ten of spades to finesse in trumps.

If you managed to do all this, they would check your pockets for a copy of the hand record!

Australia will represent the South Pacific zone in both the NEC Bermuda Bowl, and the NEC Venice Trophy, a women's competition. The Australian Open Team is G Bilski, T Brown, A Kaljo,

W Malazynski, P Lavings, P Marston.

The Australian Women's Team is F Beale, D Smart, S Lusk, C Miles, R Branicki, N Borin.

Neither team is a great chance to win but both have some hope of making the quarter finals.