

East deals, all

vulnerable.

♠ J10875
 ♥ A982
 ♦ J
 ♣ K107



♠ KQ4
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ KQ872
 ♣ A53

West	North	East	South	
-	-	pass	1NT	
pass	2♥(transfer)	pass	2♠	
pass	3♥	pass	4♠	all pass

West leads ♣6. Every club South gave EW a chance to defeat them. Can our South do better?

In a suit contract South counts and plans to reduce their losers:

1st Step: Losers from South, 1♠+1♥+1♦+1♣ = 4

2nd Step: Reduce losers by? Finesse in ♥s, discard a losing ♣ on a ♦ honour, ruff the 4th round of ♦s, the 5th ♦ will be high.

3rd Step: Your plan. If EW lead another ♣ (when win ♠A) they'll expose South's ♣ loser. Play ♦J immediately to create a discard for the losing ♣10. South needs entries to the winning ♦s to discard ♣10 and for later discards.

All the club Souths played a trump at Trick 2, then another club resulted in the defeat of the club Souths. Our South's plan identified and covered this risk. At Trick 1, where should South win ♣6 lead?

Win ♣K, to keep ♣A as an entry to the diamonds. Let's do a check.

Win ♣K, lead ♦J, EW lead another club and South is in their hand to play ♦K to discard ♣10. Yes play this sequence to avoid losing a club trick and being defeated.

Trick 1: ♣6, win ♣K, ♣2, ♣3. First critical play, win ♣K.

Trick 2: Lead ♦J, ♦A, ♦2, ♦3. Second critical play, lead ♦J.

Trick 3: ♣Q, win ♣A, ♣4, ♣7. Win EW's ♣ continuation.

Trick 4: Lead ♦K, ♦4, ♣10, ♦9. Discard ♣10 on ♦K, note ♦9.

These are the hands after South has overcome their first hurdle:

♠ J10875

♥ A982

♦ -

♣ -



♠ KQ4

♥ QJ

♦ Q87

♣ 5

It's now time to draw trumps, in what order does South play trumps? Keep asking yourself questions. To help answer, review the plan..... South you need entries to your diamonds after drawing trumps. So plan to win the 2nd and 3rd round of spades in South.

Trick 5: Lead ♠4, ♠6, ♠J, ♠2. Third critical play, ♠4 to ♠J (keep ♠KQ).

Trick 6: ♠5, ♠3, ♠K, ♠A. West wins ♠A and leads ♠9 denying South the chance of ruffing a ♥.

Trick 7: ♠9, ♠7, ♣8, ♠Q. As planned, win 3rd round of ♠s in South so can play ♦s.

Trick 8: ♦Q, ♦5, ♥2, ♦10. Did you see ♦10? South's ♦87 are high, No need for the ♥ finesse now.

South claims the remaining five tricks with ♦87, ♥A and two trumps, making 11 tricks. If the diamonds were not high, South takes the heart finesse and as it loses wins 10 tricks.

The EW hands were:

West: ♠A96 ♥10754 ♦6543 ♣64

East: ♠32 ♥K63 ♦A109 ♣QJ982

Club Results: All our club Souths didn't look ahead and foundered on the rocks like a ship at sea without navigation.

Summary:

Make a plan, look ahead and ask, "How can I navigate the risks?" On this hand the order of South's plays was critical.