

Not So Fast

Board 43744-1607

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ 10 8 4	♠ K 9 6 2	♠ J 5
♥ J 7 2	♥ K 10 6 4	♥ 5 3
♦ K J 10 4	♦ A 9 8 6 5	♦ Q 3 2
♣ K Q 10	♣ —	♣ J 9 7 6 3 2
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 2px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 2px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 2px;">S</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 2px;">E</div> </div> </div>	
	♠ A Q 7 3	
	♥ A Q 9 8	
	♦ 7	
	♣ A 8 5 4	

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 N
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
All pass			

Bidding Commentary:

In first seat I open my 16 point unbalanced hand 1 ♣ and rebid 1 ♥ after partner bids his diamonds. With a 4-4-4-1 shape, it is probable that we will find a fit somewhere. Partner's 4 ♦ rebid is explained as a game forcing support of hearts and interest in slam. The bid shows the ♦ A. I have to admit, I've never used that bid; but it does make sense. I cooperate with a 4 NT Blackwood bid and partner shows 2 key cards. This is enough for me to take us to 6 ♥.

Play Commentary:

West leads the ♣ K, which I win. The dummy has the perfect cards. My first thought is to cross ruff all the clubs and diamonds. But that would lead to defeat. The problem is that after the cross ruffing is complete, I still need 4 spade tricks and the opponents will still have all their trump to stop me from taking them.

Looking more closely at the two hands I notice that I have 4 hearts, 4 spades and the two outside aces. I only need two more tricks. If I just ruff two of my clubs in the dummy, I get the extra tricks and have enough hearts in my hand to pull trump. Of course this assumes that the heart and spade suits behave themselves.

To ensure some safety, I pull two rounds of trump with the ♥ AK, ending in my hand. They both follow suit. I ruff a club and come back to my hand with a spade and ruff the 2nd club. I return to my hand with either a spade or a diamond ruff and pull the last trump. Now I can take all my spades and end with 12 tricks.