

doubleton). On the 4th diamond North must reduce to three cards. If she discards the ♠A then dummy releases a club; if she discards a club dummy keeps all 3 clubs. Voilà!

Of course, in reality, West has a harder task to make their contract because they don't know how the opposing hands are distributed. What is the best line for 12 tricks on a neutral heart lead? I am not sure and invite comments from readers (if any are received I will include them in the next issue). Here is my proposal. Draw trumps in three rounds discarding two clubs and a diamond from dummy. Then play the ♠10 hoping that North has ♠A. If North takes the ♠A you have twelve top tricks (2 ♠s, 6 ♥s, 2 ♦s, and 2 ♣s). If North ducks you win the ♠K and play off the ♣A and K discarding your spade loser. You now have to play diamonds for one loser only. Best is to play a low diamond towards the ♦J which will see you home if either North has the ♦Q or diamonds divided 3-3. Life is much worse if South has the ♠A but there are some slender chances.

Hand 17 of that same night was much easier as a play problem. Deep Finesse tells us that 5♦ can be made. Indeed it can and this is an exercise in suit establishment.

Board 17	♠AKQ86	
North dealer	♥73	
None vul	♦J	
	♣QT632	
♠T5		♠74
♥AKT98		♥65
♦AKQ		♦876543
♣AK4		♣987
	♠J932	
	♥QJ42	
	♦T92	
	♣J5	

If you are unsure what to do watch carefully as this is a very common type of play. You have 10 top tricks and need another. Draw the trumps and play ♥A,K. Ruff a heart, return to dummy with a club honor and ruff another heart. This establishes dummy's 5th heart and you can return with the other club honor to cash it.

But wait! This assumes the opponents don't switch to clubs after cashing their two spades. Why does that cause a problem? Because it removes one of dummy's club entries prematurely. That will be no problem if trumps were to split 2-2 because then you have a trump entry instead. But here they split 3-1 so you mustn't draw the last trump and you must hope that (as happens here) no-one can ruff a heart.

4 Submissions for the Newsletter

Please send material that you would like to have included in the newsletter to me (email below) a few days before the end of the month. I am hoping to have some regular features about bridge – bidding and play – every month and if you have a particular topic you would like me to write about then, again, send me an email. Jokes welcome too!

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