

Some pairs played this in 7NT and it is the play of this contract that I want to discuss. But I admit I do not know a convincing auction that will land you there. However suppose that North is declaring 7NT and receives the  $\diamond Q$  lead. What should they be thinking? In a no-trump contract you must first count your tricks. Here, in top cards, you have 2 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and three clubs for a total of 11; so you need two extra tricks. Both hearts and clubs offer chances. To get two extra tricks in clubs you need the opposing clubs to be divided 3-3

On some hands you might be able to try one suit and, if it fails, revert to the other suit. That won't work here because you have entry problems (poor communication between the hands) so you must put all your eggs in either the club basket or the heart basket. Before reading on would you like to decide whether you take the opening trick in the South hand or the North hand?

Finally, consider the play on a club or heart lead. Can you see why you can now combine your club and heart chances? Because you still have both diamond entries you can play the ♣K,Q and the ♥Q. Now don't play the top spades! Play to your ♦A and test the hearts, discarding diamonds from dummy. If they fail you can try clubs and, if clubs behave, you can still cross to dummy's ♦K at the end and discard your two little hearts on the ♠A,K.

Board 25  
North dealer  
EW vul

♠KQT42		♠A987653
♥QT65		♥J2
♦JT		♦A8
♣85		♣Q3

♠J  
♥A8743  
♦KQ9  
♣AJT4

N

W

E

S

♠—  
♥K9  
♦765432  
♣K9762

### 3 Otago/Southland Bridge Congress

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