

The Bridge Student

by Jay Apfelbaum

For September, we have a declarer problem.

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------|--------------|-------|------|-------|
| Board: | 1 | The auction: | | | |
| Dealer: | North | West | North | East | South |
| Vul: | Neither | --- | 2♥ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Form: | IMP's | 3♠ | 4♣ | 4♠ | 5♣ |

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

West North East South
 --- 2♥ Pass 3♣
 3♠ 4♣ 4♠ 5♣
 Dbl. All Pass

West leads the ♠K. Play the hand.

Occasionally, we see a hand with lots of winners where we have trump issues. This is that kind of hand. We are missing the ♦A and, judging from West's double, a trump trick or two. If the trumps are 4-0 offside we have no chance, but we should be able to make our contract if trumps are no worse than 3-1.

The complication is that we have lots of possible spade losers. They can all be discarded on the hearts in Dummy, but we have to be able to draw trump to enjoy them all. The solution is to give West a trump trick right now. Lead a trump from Dummy and cover East's club (if he follows suit). If West wins this trick, he cannot cash any spades because of the trump in dummy. All the defenders can do is cash a diamond trick.

Would you have found this safety play if West did not double? Here is the complete hand:

| | | |
|------|----------------|--------------|
| | North | |
| | ♠ --- | |
| | ♥ A Q J 10 3 2 | |
| | ♦ K 8 7 5 | |
| | ♣ 4 3 2 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ | A K 8 7 5 2 | ♠ Q 9 4 |
| ♥ | 6 | ♥ 8 7 5 4 |
| ♦ | Q 6 4 | ♦ A 10 9 3 2 |
| ♣ | Q 10 9 | ♣ 6 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ J 10 6 3 | |
| | ♥ K 9 | |
| | ♦ J | |
| | ♣ A K J 8 7 5 | |

Now it is time for next month's hand. A defensive problem. You are East.

Board: 15
Dealer: South
Vul: North/South
Form: Matchpoints

North
♠ Q 7 5
♥ A 10 8 6 3
♦ Q 8 7
♣ 10 5

East
♠ 3
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ J 9 6 3 2
♣ 9 6 2

The auction:

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| --- | --- | --- | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Partner leads the ♥Q. Plan your defense. You are playing standard signals.

The answer next month. Those who want to express their opinion should contact the webmaster. I will try to mention all those who take the time to give me a thoughtful answer.