

FIGHTING AGAINST A BAD TRUMP SPLIT

This is your hand as dealer.

S	South
♠	9542
♥	KQ8532
♦	AK10
♣	

You can fearlessly open 1♥. With only 5 hearts you have a difficult second bid if partner doesn't support your hearts or doesn't bid 1♠. But with 6 hearts, you can always rebid them for your second bid. Here, your partner responds 1NT and raises your 2♥ rebid to 3♥. He is inviting you to game and it's time to revalue your hand.

After your partner supports your major suit, you can add points to your starting point. You started with 12 HCP and added 2 for length. Now that North has shown 2 card support, you can add one more for length and 1 more for the 4-card spade suit, such as it is. Now, with 16 total points you can accept and raise to 4♥. Another way of evaluating your hand is to count losing tricks. You have 3 spades (the maximum for any one suit), 1 in hearts and 1 in diamonds. You need partner to cover 2 of these and his invitation usually promises at least two cover cards.

West leads the ♠Q. How would you plan the play?

N	North
♠	A8
♥	J10
♦	J964
♣	K10963

West leads ♠Q

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/y7u2heyx>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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