

## ONE MORE TRICK

You are sitting South with this hand:

South  
 ♠ AK1042  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ A1052  
 ♣ AQ10

You count 17 HCP and a quality 5-card spade suit, worth 2 more points. Certainly this hand is worth a 1♠ opening. Partner raises to 3♠. This is a limit raise showing 10-12 support points and at least 4 spades. Now your hand is worth about 3 more points; 2 for the singleton and 1 for the 4-card diamond suit. It is almost worth a slam try, but you settle for game and rebid 4♠, ending the auction.

West leads the ♠7 and you see this dummy:

		North		
		♠ J9863 ♥ KQ ♦ K86 ♣ 752		
Vul: None	West		East	
	♠7			
		South		
		♠ AK1042 ♥ 4 ♦ A1052 ♣ AQ10		

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The lead wasn't the best for the defenders. Now it is certain that you won't have any spade losers. You do have an unavoidable heart loser and a probable diamond loser. You also have 2 possible club losers. You can take a repeated club finesse. The probability of one of these being successful is about 75%. Thus, you can reduce your losers to 3, just making your contract.

However, in a matchpoint scored game, you will tie most others who also will be making 4♠. You will lose to others, though, who take 11 tricks. That results in a below average score. You must find a way to take an overtrick if it is possible.

You can't avoid the heart loser, but you will have the opportunity to discard a card from your hand on the second heart. You might consider discarding a diamond, but that would be wrong. Your 4<sup>th</sup>

diamond doesn't represent the loser; the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond does. You need to discard a diamond from the dummy if you want to eliminate the diamond loser. Instead, you need to discard the ♣10 and hope that the finesse against the ♣K is successful. That is only a 50% probability but if it works, your losers will be only in the heart and 1 diamond suits. If it loses, the worst is that you only make your contract.

After pulling the last trump, lead up to the dummy's heart doubleton. West will probably duck and then lead the remaining heart, discarding the ♣10. You can now regain the lead and get to the dummy and lead a club to your ♣AQ tenace. You will be successful and score a shared top score.

Here is the entire deal:

D	8	N North	W	N	E	S
		♠ J9863 ♥ KQ ♦ K86 ♣ 752	P	P	P	1♠
W	West	S South	E East			
♠ 7 ♥ A8653 ♦ QJ73 ♣ J43	♠ Q5 ♥ J10972 ♦ 94 ♣ K986		4♠ S	NS: 0 EW: 0		

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/govg6g8> 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.