

♠♥♦♣ PERFECT DUMMY PLAY ♠♥♦♣

This is a deal that was played in a highly competitive knockout competition in 2018. East dealt and South picked up this unusual 6-6-1-0 hand, But before she got her spade bid out of her "mouth", East opened 1♠.

S	South
♠	A108763
♥	AKQ987
♦	8
♣	

There was nothing she could do but pass and await further developments. East's partner responded 1NT and North passed. East rebid 2♣ and South inserted a half preemptive and half constructive 3♥. West raised his partner to 3♠ and North jumped to 5♥. East passed and it's back to South. What would you have done?

This South continued on to 6♥ which was doubled by West.

Here is the complete auction:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	3♥
3♠	5♥	Pass	6♥
Dbl	All Pass		

West led the ♦ A and this was the dummy:

N	North
♠	
♥	J542
♦	Q9632
♣	7653

West's Lead: ♦ A

S	South
♠	A108763
♥	AKQ987
♦	8
♣	

After West took the first trick, he thought for a very long time and then switched to the ♠ 9. South was thrilled.

She ruffed in the dummy with the ♥2 and led the ♦2, ruffing in her hand with the ♥7. Then she led another low spade and ruffed with dummy's ♥4; West playing the ♠Q. She led another diamond ruffing with the ♥8 and returned a spade for a ruff with the ♥5. West discarded a low club. West was out of spades and East was now out of diamonds. But each opponent was sitting in front of the ruffing hand which could over ruff any trump that was played.

South continued with dummy's ♦9 and ruffed with the ♥9, taking West's last diamond – the ♦K. Finally, South lead her 4th low spade and ruffed with dummy's ♥J. At this point, both opponents were out of diamonds and East was left with the unguarded ♠K. South led a club to her hand, ruffing with her ♥Q. She cashed the ♥AK, clearing the trump. Now she played the ♠A and after East's ♠K fell, she played the good ♠10 to make 6♥ doubled.

Of course, I'm sure you noticed that had West switched to a heart at Trick 2, South couldn't have made it.

The South player was Vanita Gupta and the event was the Reislinger Board-A-Match Team finals. Her day job is Associate Attorney General for the United States.

This is the entire deal:

		N North	W	N	E	S
		♠ J542	1NT	P	1♠	P
		♦ Q9632	3♠	5♥	2♣	3♥
		♣ 7653	X	P	P	6♥
W West			E East			
♠ Q9			♠ KJ542			
♥ 103			♥ 6			
♦ AKJ10			♦ 754			
♣ 109842			♣ AKQJ			
		S South				
		♠ A108763				
		♥ AKQ987				
		♦ 8				
		♣				
			6♥x S		NS: 0	EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yk43qt64>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.