

SACRIFICE AGAINST A SURE THING

West deals and opens 1♠. Your partner overcalls 3♥. This is a “weak jump overcall.” It is similar to a 3-level pre-emptive opening. It shows 7 hearts and less than opening values. East responds with 4♥. This is a cue bid, confirming his partner’s spades and showing a good hand. Would you take any action here?

S	South
♠	5
♥	
♦	AJ10962
♣	AKJ976

When I played this hand on iBridgePlus*, I took a flyer with 5♣. I thought it was safe, considering we had favorable vulnerability. I would have to be set by 4 tricks to compensate for their certain spade game. If we get doubled, I could run to 5♦.

Over my 5♣, West bid 5♥. This was also a cue bid telling her partner that her hand was good enough to make 5♠. My partner raised my bid 6♣. This was doubled by East and became the final contract.

West led the ♥A and I saw this dummy hand:

N	North
♠	J
♥	QJ86532
♦	87
♣	Q104

West leads ♥A.

S	South
♠	5
♥	
♦	AJ10962
♣	AKJ976

Rather than ruffing the initial lead, I discarded my spade loser. This might help me by not having to lose a trick in the middle of the play. Plus, there is always the chance that West will follow with the ♥K.

My plan was to set up the dummy's heart suit. In order to do this, I had to play my trump carefully since they are the only entries I had to the hearts.

West made a error in following with the ♥K. I ruffed the second heart and played the ♦A and another diamond. East won and played a spade, which I ruffed. Then I started pulling trump, ruffing out the missing hearts in the process. I led the ♠A and then a low club to the ♣10. Since I knew from East's discard on the 2nd heart, that West started with 5 hearts. I ruffed a low heart with the ♠K and led my ♣J to the dummy's ♣Q. Now I could clear the hearts with my ♥QJ.

The opponents took 1 heart and 1 diamond and I ended down 1 doubled for -100. They can easily make 5♠ for a net difference of 550 points.

This is the entire deal:

D 16	N North	W N E S
	♠ J ♥ QJ86532 ♦ 87 ♣ Q104	1♠ 3♥ 4♦ 5♣ 5♥ 6♣ X P P P
W West	E East	
♠ K109432 ♥ AK1094 ♦ 5 ♣ 8	♠ AQ876 ♥ 7 ♦ KQ43 ♣ 532	
	S South	
	♠ 5 ♥ ♦ AJ10962 ♣ AKJ976	6♠x S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

*I recommend downloading this APP for practice and competitive play. It is only available at the Apple app store for IOS systems. I write a weekly column for the app called Hand of the Week.