

can eliminate the two heart losers by ruffing them in the dummy. He must be careful, however, that he has two spades left in the dummy when the time arrives to ruff those losing hearts.

He should ruff the 3rd diamond and immediately play the ♥A and another heart, ruffing low in the dummy. Then he should perform a *partial trump elimination*, drawing only two rounds of trump with the ♠K and then the ♠A. Now he is back in his hand and can lead the second heart loser, trumping it with the ♠Q. There is one trump left outstanding, so he leads a club to the ♣A in his hand and pulls the last trump with the ♠J. Now he can concede the two club losers and claim 9 tricks to fulfill his contract.

Notice that North can actually make 4♥. He loses only three outstanding aces. The preemptive 3♠ bid had the desired effect of preventing the opponents finding their best contract.

Had they actually bid 4♥, East should have bid 4♠. He will be set 1 trick but the penalty would be much less than the game score that North/South would have received, no matter what the vulnerability.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/mrzg5zs>, 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.