

♠♥♦♣ A CHANGE OF PLANS ♠♥♦♣

Only you and partner are vulnerable. You open this hand 1♥.

S	South
♠	A72
♥	AKJ64
♦	
♣	KQ942

Partner responds 2♦, promising an opening strength hand, since they are playing the 2 over 1 style. You will show your second suit with 3♣, and partner raises you to 4♣. You end up in 6♣. West leads the ♠J and you see this dummy. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	Q3
♥	Q2
♦	KQ643
♣	A753

West leads ♠J

S	South
♠	A72
♥	AKJ64
♦	
♣	KQ942

You put up dummy's ♠Q, East plays the ♠K and you win the ♠A. You still have 2 spade losers, but you can trump one in the dummy. If hearts break no worse than 4-2, You will lose no hearts and your contract will be made.

You pull trump in 3 rounds and play the hearts by leading up to the ♥Q and back your hand. West shows out. The hearts break 5-1 and there is nothing you can do now. You still have two losing spades; and now, a losing heart. You have only 1 trump left in the dummy to take care of these three losers.

You can plan ahead for this eventuality. Play the ♥A and a low heart up to the ♥Q. If both follow, you can get back to your hand with a diamond ruff, finish the hearts and give up the spade.

However, if someone shows out on the 2nd heart, you will be in dummy where you can use a ruffing finesse of diamonds. You are banking on East holding the $\heartsuit A$. Lead the $\heartsuit K$. If East plays low, discard a spade loser. If East covers with the ace, trump it in your hand. Give up a spade and get back to the dummy with a spade ruff, discarding your last spade on the good $\heartsuit Q$.

Look at the entire deal:

15 D	N North	W	N	E	S
	\spadesuit Q3 \heartsuit Q2 \diamondsuit KQ643 \clubsuit A753	P	2 \heartsuit	P	1 \heartsuit
W West		P	4 \clubsuit	P	6 \clubsuit
\spadesuit J1098 \heartsuit 7 \diamondsuit 109752 \clubsuit J86	E East	P	P	P	
	\spadesuit K654 \heartsuit 109853 \diamondsuit AJ8 \clubsuit 10				
	S South				
	\spadesuit A72 \heartsuit AKJ64 \diamondsuit \clubsuit KQ942				
		6 \clubsuit S NS: 0 EW: 0			

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

<https://tinyurl.com/yxuskvpj>, 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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