

♠♥♦♣ **ENTRY MANAGEMENT** ♠♥♦♣

East is the dealer and passes. This is your South hand:

<b>S</b>	South
♠	87
♥	QJ1097
♦	AJ3
♣	AJ10

You have 13 HCP, you meet the Rule of 20 and you have 2 Quick Tricks. What more do you need to justify a 1♥ opening. Your partner makes a limit raise to ♥3 and it's back to you. Even though you are missing the two top Heart honors, you do have the other 3 honors. The hand is full of good intermediates – 10's and 9's, and you know everyone else is going to push to game. You rebid 4♥.

West leads the ♠J. How do you plan to make your contract?

<b>N</b>	North
♠	AQ
♥	K632
♦	Q109
♣	8532

West's Lead: ♠J

<b>S</b>	South
♠	87
♥	QJ1097
♦	AJ3
♣	AJ10

Assuming the ♠K is in East, you have one loser in each Major and a probable loser in Diamonds. You could have 2 losers in Clubs. You put up the ♠Q, just in case, and it loses to East's ♠K. Back comes a Spade to your ♠A in the dummy. Now what?

If you haven't given this deal much thought, you might start pulling trump to knock out the ♥A, beginning with the ♥K – the "High Card From the Short Side First." This will lead to defeat.

You should have planned to take 3 finesses against East. You need the ♦K and at least one of the missing Club honors to be in East. Therefore, you need to conserve entries to the dummy, and the ♥K is the most important one.

Since the opponents have put you in the dummy, take advantage of being there. Start with the Diamond finesse. Lead the ♦Q, dropping the ♦J. When that holds, follow with the ♦9, dropping the ♦3. You are still in the dummy. Now you can take your first Club finesse, losing to West's ♣Q. You can win whatever West leads back and then play two rounds of Hearts, winning the ♥Q and ♥J. Another Heart will force out the ♥A. When you regain the lead, you lead a small Heart to the ♥K and repeat the Club finesse. Since the two missing Club honors were split between East and West, you have eliminated 1 of the 2 Club losers.

You end up losing 1 Spade, 1 Heart and 1 Club, making your contract.

This is the entire deal:

6♦	N North	W N E S
	♠ AQ ♥ K632 ♦ Q109 ♣ 8532	P P P P 3♥ P P P P P
W West	E East	
♠ J1092 ♥ A85 ♦ 874 ♣ Q64	♠ K6543 ♥ 4 ♦ K652 ♣ K97	
	S South	
	♠ 87 ♥ QJ1097 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AJ10	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yzvb73jp>, 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.