

♠♥♦♣ PATIENCE AND LUCK ♠♥♦♣

North deals and it's two passes to you. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	AKJ109
♥	J865
♦	A4
♣	K5

You have a slightly unbalanced 17 point hand. Your 1♠ opening is raised to 2♠. You rashly jump to game. West leads the ♣J and you see this dummy.

N	North
♠	Q75
♥	743
♦	K863
♣	A76

West leads ♣J

S	South
♠	AKJ109
♥	J865
♦	A4
♣	K5

How are you going to make you 4♠ contract?

You have 4 losers and they are all in hearts. You need to eliminate 1 loser. You can hope that hearts break 3-3, but that is against the odds. They will most likely break 4-2. Therefore, the only way to make this contract is to ruff the 4th heart in the dummy. How will you work that?

Win the opening club lead and play a heart. The defenders will win and will return a trump, easily spotting what your plan is. You win the spade and play another heart. Back come a second trump. You win that, keeping the ♠Q in the dummy. You come back with your third heart. If you are lucky, the winner of that heart will have no more spades to lead. You win whatever he leads and trump your 4th heart with the carefully preserved ♠Q.

It took a while to work this loser elimination and a certain amount of luck, but it was your only chance. West could have quashed that chance if he had led a spade initially, but that was hard to see, given the auction.

Look at the entire deal:

D		N North		W N E S			
1		♠ Q75		P		P 1♠	
		♥ 743		P		2♣ P 4♠	
		♦ K863		P		P P	
		♣ A76					
W West		E East					
♠ 43		♠ 862					
♥ AQ102		♥ K9					
♦ 75		♦ QJ1092					
♣ J10942		♣ Q83					
		S South					
		♠ AKJ109					
		♥ J865					
		♦ A4					
		♣ K5					
				4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0			

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y2v24qy3> 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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