

TAKING TEN TRICKS

Consider this hand:

South
 ♠4
 ♥KQJ32
 ♦32
 ♣KQ765

The bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♦	2♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West leads the ♦5 and you see this nice dummy:

North
 ♠AJ10875
 ♥A4
 ♦764
 ♣A4

West
 ♦5

East

South
 ♠4
 ♥KQJ32
 ♦32
 ♣KQ765

What is your plan to take 10 tricks?

Your response of 2♥ shows “5&10”; 5 or more hearts and 10 or more points. After an overcall, some play this bid as weak and non-forcing, but that is non-standard. North’s pass over the advance of 3♦ shows a minimum opener and a lack of 3-card support for your hearts. Your hand is strong enough to force to game and it time to show your second 5-card suit. You are asking your partner to take a preference for the two possible games: 4♥ or 5♣. You have already passed 3NT, so that game is out of the question.

Your partner takes his preference for hearts. Now your problem is to take 10 tricks. You have two quick diamond losers, so you can only afford 1 more loser. Your attention should be directed to the club suit. There are 6 outstanding clubs and if they split 3-3 your job is easy. The more normal split is 4-2. So, if you play 3 rounds of clubs, someone will ruff the third club. If you play 2 round and ruff a low club in the dummy, you could be overruffed if East is the player with the two clubs. Of course, if you pull trump first, you won't have any cards in the dummy to ruff with.

Your plan should be to trump the third diamond with the $\heartsuit 2$. You know from the bidding, that West holds at least 3 diamonds, so there is no need to waste a trump honor.

Once you are in, you don't pull trump but rather play 3 rounds of clubs, trumping the third LOW club with the dummy's $\heartsuit A$. Now pull trump with the $\heartsuit KQJ$. There is still one trump in West, but when you play the $\clubsuit Q$ and another club, West will have to use it to win that trick. The rest of the tricks are yours.

Here's the full hand:

D 1	N North	W N E S
	\spadesuit AJ10875 \heartsuit A4 \diamondsuit 764 \clubsuit A4	1 \spadesuit 2 \diamondsuit 2 \heartsuit 3 \diamondsuit P P 4 \clubsuit P 4 \heartsuit P P P
W West	E East	
\spadesuit 63 \heartsuit 9875 \diamondsuit K95 \clubsuit J983	\spadesuit KQ92 \heartsuit 106 \diamondsuit AQJ108 \clubsuit 102	
	S South	
	\spadesuit 4 \heartsuit KQJ32 \diamondsuit 32 \clubsuit KQ765	4 \heartsuit S NS: 0 EW: 0

If you would like to see the whole hand played out click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/q3qjx4m> or copy and paste it into your browser. This is a new feature that I am trying out. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick.