

♠♥♦♣ TO PULL TRUMP OR NOT? ♠♥♦♣

You are vulnerable and the dealer.

S	South
♠	K8732
♥	A94
♦	J4
♣	A53

You open 1♠ and partner makes a game forcing response of 2♣. You show your minimum, balanced hand with a 2NT rebid. Partner puts you in 4♠.

West leads the ♥K and you see this dummy.

N	North
♠	AQ5
♥	10
♦	Q863
♣	K9762

West leads ♥K

S	South
♠	K8732
♥	A94
♦	J4
♣	A53

You've got lots of losers. With a normal trump break there shouldn't be any spade losers. You have two heart losers and 2 diamond losers and a club loser. If you plan to trump your two hearts in the dummy, You will eliminate the heart losers, but you will add a spade loser, since you will only be able to pull them twice.

You need a better plan. You have 8 clubs and if they break in the normal way, the extra clubs will give you a parking spot for the heart losers. However, you will have to let the opponents in to set up the club suit, so you have to keep a spade in the dummy to stop their heart shift.

Win the ♥A and pull only 2 rounds of trump with the ♠AQ. Then lead a club and duck it, letting the opponents win. They can take their two diamonds, but you

will win the next lead and pull the remaining trump. Now you can take the top two clubs, watching all the opponents clubs fall.

Notice, that if you win the first club with the ♣A, you won't be able to get back to your hand to pull the last trump when the opponents put you in the dummy with a heart lead later, after they win their club.

Look at the entire deal:

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 15 D </div>	N North ♠ AQ5 ♥ 10 ♦ Q863 ♣ K9762	<table border="1" style="font-size: 8pt;"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	2♣	P	1♠	P	4♣	P	2NT	P		P	P
	W	N	E	S														
	P	2♣	P	1♠														
	P	4♣	P	2NT														
P		P	P															
W West ♠ 106 ♥ KQ753 ♦ K92 ♣ J84	E East ♠ J94 ♥ J862 ♦ A1075 ♣ Q10																	
S South ♠ K8732 ♥ A94 ♦ J4 ♣ A53		4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0																

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

<https://tinyurl.com/rqgcoel> 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.