

Inferences from bidding and play/dummy reversal

Tuesday Pairs 13th November (Board 5)

	962		
	AKQ1095		
	8		
	1065		
K104			AQJ62
J742			8
A97			Q542
KQ7			A93
	87		
	83		
	KJ1063		
	J842		

Dealer North N/S vulnerable

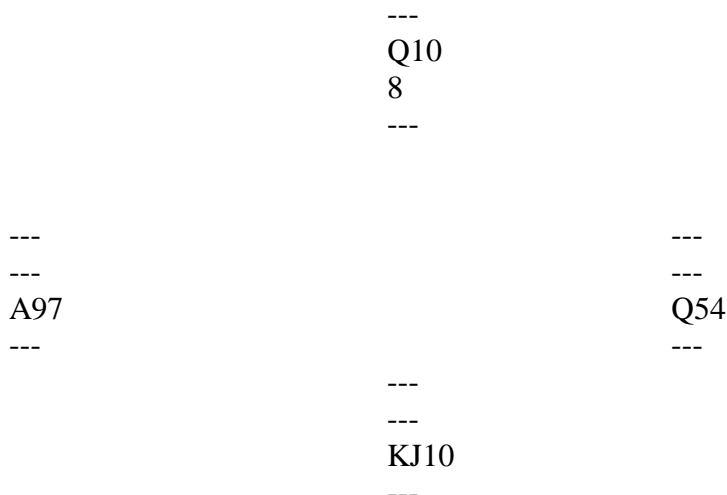
West	North	East	South
	2H	2S	Pass
4S	All pass		

South leads the 8H lead and the heart continuation is ruffed by declarer.

With 9 top tricks East sees one option is in placing the KD with North to set up a second diamond trick. Cursory analysis demonstrates this clearly must fail. North has been shown to hold a 6 card suit headed by the AKQ and with the KD would surely open 1H rather than a weak two.

Closer examination of the combined trump holding points declarer in the right direction. By entering dummy a couple of times (there are more than sufficient entries) declarer can ruff two further hearts with the A and Q to avoid overruffing by South. The correct sequence of play: at trick 3 a small spade to the 10, heart ruff with AS, small club to the K, another heart ruff with the QS. Now declarer plays JS (declarer's last trump) then enters dummy with the QC and draws the outstanding trump with the KS thereby making a total of 6 spade tricks, 3 clubs and a diamond for the contract.

At the table South made a slight error when discarding a club which gave declarer a complete count of the hand when coming back to AC. East has by that stage shown up with 6 hearts 3 in each black suit and therefore only has a singleton diamond leaving this position :



East is assured of the contract by leading to the AD but if desperate for a top board may consider an endplay on South. When leading a small diamond from hand South plays the 10 and if dummy ducks this then South is endplayed to lead away from the KD to allow a second diamond trick by declarer. This is not without risk however as ,though North is known to have a singleton (which cannot be the K) it may just be possible for the singleton to be the J and if declarer ducks the 10D from South then North will win with the JD and claim the last 2 heart tricks for -1.