

Looking for the extra chance

	AK7		
	J2		
	QJ4		
	A7542		
63			542
K87543			96
10			AK852
J1083			KQ6
	QJ1098		
	AQ10		
	9763		
	9		

Dealer East N/S vulnerable

North	East	South	West
	1D	1S	Pass
4S	All pass		

South has a reasonable overcall at the one level and North with excellent trump support and a 15 count raises to game

The defence starts well with 2 top diamonds and a diamond ruff and at first look it appears that the contract depends on a well placed KH. There is one extra chance however .

After the first 3 tricks the 9D is now the highest remaining diamond and could be used to discard one of dummy's hearts. Declarer could then ruff their 2 losing hearts in dummy.

For this to have any chance it will be necessary for West to hold only 2 trumps as declarer cannot afford to draw more than one round as 2 trumps are needed in dummy to take care of the losing hearts. South then plays one round of trumps only and then leads the 9D. Thankfully West discards and the contract is made on a cross ruff.

If West had a third spade and ruffed the 9D then dummy would have to over ruff and declarer would have to fall back on the heart finesse which remains available.