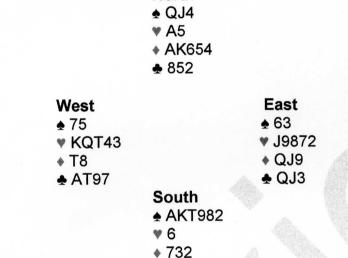
## Avoid the Danger Hand

2017 Hutton Christmas Puzzle

## Question

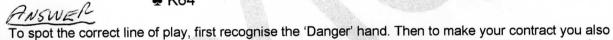
The 2017 puzzle was based on a basic card play technique employed by many experts.

Against your 4 Spade contract West leads the King of hearts. What is your best line of play to make ten tricks?



♣ K64

North



need to develop tricks in Diamonds, but you cannot let East gain the lead because of the danger of a club switch. East is the 'Danger hand'.

All would be well if East has the A or if West started with three diamonds, but why take a chance. Simply play low on West's lead at trick one. West will probably continue with a heart and you can win the

ace and throw a diamond from hand. Now draw trumps and cash top diamonds. When the suit breaks 3-2 you can ruff, establishing two

diamond winners in dummy with an entry in trumps.

Should trumps be divided 3-1, you are still home if the player with three trumps has at least two diamonds. You cash dummy's diamond honour's, ruff a diamond high and return to dummy pulling the last trump in the process and cash your good diamond tricks.