

Christmas Party Challenge

<p>♠AQ64 ♥J10964 ♦A ♣A75</p> <p>♠987 ♠105 ♥Q5 ♥A7 ♦KQJ9852 ♦10643 ♣109 ♣KQJ83</p> <p>♠KJ32 ♥K843 ♦75 ♣642</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠¹</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>¹ Trial Bid</p> <p>The bidding becomes more interesting if East overcalls 2♣ (a tad flat) and/or West bid 3♦.</p> <p>North South find a nine card fit but are able to play in the better 4-4spade fit. East leads ♣K. Declarer ducks, wins the continuation and draws trumps ending in hand. North will make the contract if declarer guesses to play East for ♥A and West ♥Q.</p> <p>4♥ can be defeated if, after a similar club start, East wins the first trump, cashes the third club and plays a fourth round of the suit. Now West can ruff with ♥Q and the defence has four tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
	1♥	Pass	2♥														
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♠														
Pass	4♠	All pass															
<p>♠8765 ♥Q105 ♦754 ♣972</p> <p>♠J9 ♠A4 ♥AJ86 ♥K974 ♦QJ93 ♦AK102 ♣A43 ♣Q65</p> <p>♠KQ1032 ♥32 ♦86 ♣KJ108</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>X¹</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Takeout , showing 4hearts</p> <p>North leads ♠K which declarer takes. It's best to spurn the finesse against the trump queen and cash two top hearts. The queen doesn't fall but declarer continues with three rounds of diamonds. Now East gets off play with a spade. South, marked with ♠Q, wins and must give declarer a ruff and discard or play a club round to ♣Q. One way or another there are ten tricks, declarer losing one spade, one trump and a club.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	1♠	X ¹	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
		1♦	1♠														
X ¹	Pass	3♥	Pass														
4♥	All Pass																

<p>♠K ♥10743 ♦KQ1085 ♣643</p> <p>♠A ♠976542 ♥KQJ9862 ♥5 ♦A ♦76432 ♣KQJ10 ♣A ♣QJ1083 ♥A ♦J9 ♣98752</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4N¹</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣²</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>¹ Asking for specific aces ² ♣A</p> <p>West would prefer to hold ♥10 but it's reasonable for West to open 4N.</p> <p>North leads ♦K. Declarer's possible losers are in the trump suit where a 5-0 break renders the contract hopeless and a 4-1 break may present problems. In the latter case West will be successful if ♥10 is a singleton but what if the ace of trumps is on its own? If it's with North the contract fails (declarer won't take the winning finesse of ♥8). But can we do anything if South has the ace? Yes, cross to dummy with a club and lead a trump. South's ♥A "beats the air" and twelve tricks follow.</p> <p>Play a top heart from hand and the contract fails.</p> <p>Have you spotted the killing lead? ♠K! Now South wins the first trump and a second spade promotes ♥10.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	4N ¹	Pass	6♣ ²	Pass	6♥	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
4N ¹	Pass	6♣ ²	Pass														
6♥	All pass																
<p>♠KQ876 ♥K3 ♦A4 ♣Q642</p> <p>♠A1093 ♠52 ♥J7 ♥109854 ♦K109853 ♦76 ♣A ♣9853</p> <p>♠J4 ♥AQ62 ♦QJ2 ♣KJ107</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2N¹</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3N</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>¹ 13-14(15), no spade fit</p> <p>West leads ♦10 (top of an interior sequence) which South runs to the knave. Declarer has five tricks now (three heart winners accompanying the two diamonds). West is marked with both black aces (else no one level opening bid) and South can take advantage of this.</p> <p>At trick two declarer leads ♠4 and West finds himself in a dilemma. If he hops up with the ace declarer has four spades and the contract makes. What if West ducks? No good for the defence. South now has six tricks and can switch his attention to clubs to make three more tricks for game.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	1♠	Pass	2N ¹	Pass	3N	All pass					
West	North	East	South														
1♦	1♠	Pass	2N ¹														
Pass	3N	All pass															

<p>♠432 ♥KQJ3 ♦2 ♣AQ765</p> <p>♠KQ6 ♠AJ1097 ♥A7654 ♥-void- ♦Q4 ♦AJ106 ♣KJ10 ♣8432</p> <p>♠85 ♥10982 ♦K98753 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣¹</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>¹ Unassuming cue bid (10+, spade support)</p> <p>West might bid 4♠ on the first round but goes the cue bid route lest East has a heart suit, a 5-4 fit being safer than 5-3.</p> <p>South leads ♣9 and North takes two winners and gives South a club ruff. South switches to ♥10 and superficially the contract depends on North having the king of diamonds. East wins ♥A <i>throwing a diamond</i> and can improve his chances by cashing a top trump and ruffing a heart to hand. Now play ♣8. South is unable to ruff and a diamond is thrown from dummy. The hand can now be successfully cross ruffed.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
	1♣	1♠	Pass														
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦	Pass														
4♠	All Pass																
<p>♠AQJ2 ♥A ♦Q65432 ♣A2</p> <p>♠853 ♠K1096 ♥854 ♥97 ♦K10 ♦AJ98 ♣KQJ84 ♣1096</p> <p>♠74 ♥KQJ10632 ♦7 ♣753</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥¹</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>¹ A classical preempt (aceless, great suit, shortage)</p> <p>West leads ♣K and declarer counts four potential losers (a spade, a diamond and two clubs). Declarer might win the lead and play a diamond at trick two. The defence can counter this by cashing a club and knocking out ♥A. Now when South takes a spade finesse, it loses and the defence can take a second club winner.</p> <p>Declarer's best play at trick two is ♠Q/J (or cash the ace before doing this). By doing this declarer keeps control. The defence cannot take two club tricks because of the ace of trumps in dummy; and as soon as declarer regains the lead, a club loser can be discarded on a spade winner. Neat.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	4♥	All Pass					
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	3♥ ¹														
Pass	4♥	All Pass															