

This hand is interesting because there are so many bidding possibilities.

2 in 5S's, 7 in 4S's and 1 in 2S's. 7 pairs were 'permitted' to bid Hearts with 4H's making on any lead so we will concentrate on defeating the Spade contract.

Of the 10 playing in Spades, 7 received the singleton Club lead. According to the analysis, **only 1S should make yet 2 people managed to make 10 tricks.**

It takes excellent defence to beat 2S's but it can be held to 1S.

If West is declarer North led AH's.

**Best lead by South is a trump** - Why?

Most E/W partnerships will have shown their Club and Diamond suits in the bidding so you know there is likely a misfit in the minor suits with East hopefully short on Clubs and West short on Diamonds.

- Leading a trump makes it more difficult for declarer to establish a long suit.
- It's the safest lead, if East holds the SA, they will finesse against KS anyway.  
Also, your partner is unlikely to hold more than a doubleton trump

**Lead the S2**, if N wins, cash the AH and play DK. When that wins now **switch to the S10**. East has to win in hand to unblock the AC, hoping the Clubs are 3/2. With the S9 as an entry to dummy, this play gives declarer a 60+% chance.

When Clubs break 4/1, regardless of the next move, declarer can only make two more Spade tricks holding the contract to one Spade.

Dir: North  
Vul: None

♠ K 10  
♥ A 7 5 3 2  
♦ K Q  
♣ 10 9 8 5

Optimum  
NS 4H  
420

♠ A 9 4  
♥ J 9  
♦ 4  
♣ K Q 7 6 4 3 2

NORTH

17

SOUTH

♠ Q J 8 7 5  
♥ Q  
♦ J 9 8 7 6 3  
♣ A

12

10

10

8

♠ 6 3 2  
♥ K 10 8 6 4  
♦ A 10 5 2  
♣ J

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | N |
| N | - | - | 4 | - | 3 |
| S | - | - | 4 | - | 3 |
| E | 2 | - | - | 1 | - |
| W | 2 | - | - | 1 | - |