

This hand is a good example of planning to get maximum tricks without taking any risks. Although the contracts were mixed, N/S should prevail in **Spades**. Count the tricks; declarer can see 4S's, 1D, 1C with possible extras in Clubs and Diamonds.

If Clubs break 3/2, you can discard 2 losing D's. If the Diamond finesse also wins you may come to 9 tricks. Start by considering Diamond ruffs in dummy. The lead was a Heart on every occasion so East wins 2 tricks. The safest return is a trump.

1. *We must win the KS in dummy and lead a Diamond to the Q immediately*
2. If this wins, cash the DA and lead the D2
3. If East ruffs then over ruff, (East shouldn't). Play a 2nd trump, winning in hand.
4. Lead a club to the Ace + and another Club - **West is endplayed** - they either give you a ruff and discard or a D ruff in dummy. With a spade still in dummy, you can draw the remaining trump if East hasn't ruffed the 3rd Diamond.

If you decide to set up the Clubs for Diamond discards:

1. Draw trumps ending in hand.
2. Now lead the 10 of clubs. **Should East cover this with the JC?** not when they see the 9C in dummy - they should also also refrain if South is declarer. With four clubs below the the Jack in dummy there can be no advantage to covering - If partner has nothing it makes no difference and if partner is short it could be disastrous.
3. Allow this to run to one of West's honours, duck a 2nd Club, throw 2 diamonds on your established clubs and take the Diamond finesse = 9 tricks.

If Spades or Clubs break unfavourably, declarer is limited to either 7 or 8 tricks.

Dir: South
Vul: All

♠ A Q 5 3

♥ 10 4

♦ A Q 8 2

♣ 10 8 3

Optimum
NS 1S
140

♠ J 2

♥ 6 5 3 2

♦ K 9 7 5 3

♣ K Q

W NORTH E

23

SOUTH T

♠ 9 7 6

♥ A K J 8 7

♦ J 10

♣ J 6 4

12
9 10
9

♠ K 10 8 4

♥ Q 9

♦ 6 4

♣ A 9 7 5 2

♣♦♥♠N

N	3	-	-	3	1
S	3	-	-	3	1
E	-	1	1	-	-
W	-	1	1	-	-

EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
10	2♠	N	♥A	=	110		10	4
8	3♥	E	♦6	-1	100		8	6
5	2♥	E	♦6	=		110	2	12
4	2♠	N	♥A	+2	170		12	2
1	1NT	N	♥A	=	90		5	9
7	3♠	S	♥6	-2		200	0	14
2	3♥	E	♦6	-2	200		14	0
13	1NT	N	♥A	=	90		5	9