

18/01/2021 Hand of the Week 47: End plays

Double dummy declarer and defender play this week! First- Can you make 4♥ on this hand?

D 5	N Erika Pick	W	N	E	S
	♠ J6 ♥ 3 ♦ Q976 ♣ Q98732	P	1NT	P	P
W AZao		2♣	P	2♥	P
♠ A103 ♥ K1065 ♦ AJ84 ♣ J10		4♥	P	P	P
	S med029				
	♠ K9542 ♥ QJ87 ♦ 105 ♣ 65				
		4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0			

I lead 10♦ to J/Q/K, then declarer played low to the K♥ and found the 4-1 break on the second round.

South continued with a second diamond, which was ducked by declarer. North lead a 3rd diamond and South discarded a spade. NS now have 1 trick and 2 hearts to win. As it happens the defence have helped declarer by setting up the diamonds- East can throw a spade on the A♦ then take 2 clubs and lead a spade out himself.

South does better to lead a heart at trick 4. However, the contract should make without that help. In order for the end play to work, place South with the K, then remove their other options for leading by playing 3 rounds of clubs, the A♦ and then putting South in with their hearts- this would be the position with South on lead, and the defence having won 2 tricks:

D 5	N Erika Pick	W	N	E	S
	♠ J6 ♥ ♦ 9 ♣ Q	P	1NT	P	P
W AZao		2♣	P	2♥	P
♠ A103 ♥ ♦ 8 ♣		4♥	P	P	P
	S med029				
	♠ K954 ♥ ♦ ♣				
		4♥ E NS: 1 EW: 2			

Declarers spade loser now magically disappears!

Now a defender play

19 D	N Erika Pick	W	N	E	S
	♠ K	1♦	1♥	P	P
	♥ AKQ986	2♦	2♥	P	P
	♦ 8642	P			
	♣ 54				
W bal94		E hxmarie			
♠ Q1094		♠ 876			
♥ J104		♥ 753			
♦ AKQJ10		♦ 53			
♣ A		♣ K10962			
	S med029				
	♠ AJ532				
	♥ 2				
	♦ 97				
	♣ QJ873				
		2♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

Defence starts diamond to the A♦, A♣, K♦, 10♦ ruffed by East then the K♣:

19 D	N Erika Pick	W	N	E	S
	♠ K	1♦	1♥	P	P
	♥ AKQ986	2♦	2♥	P	P
	♦ 8	P			
	♣ 4				
W bal94		E hxmarie			
♠ Q1094		♠ 876			
♥ J104	♣ K	♥ 75			
♦ QJ		♦			
♣		♣ 1096			
	S med029				
	♠ AJ53				
	♥ 2				
	♦				
	♣ QJ87				
		2♥ N NS: 0 EW: 4			

The defence need 2 more tricks- Can you spot the play to take the contract off?

If the K♣ wins then East must switch to a spade to take out declarers entry to the winning clubs.

However, there is another way for West to defeat the contract, which avoids partner having to make the right decision! West can ruff the winning K♣ and give their partner another diamond ruff! West knows North has another diamond and if South had a heart higher than the 3 they would surely have over-ruffed at trick 4.