

A tricky declarer play this week, can you make 5 ♦ on the heart lead?

On the face of it you have 2 heart losers and a spade loser

North should have 5 spades and south at least 6 clubs- South has repeatedly bid clubs but their partner has chosen to lead a heart. This strongly suggests that North has a heart singleton, so if south can be persuaded to lead away from their QJ ♥ this would take away one of the heart loser. The hand is therefore set up for an end play.

The next step is how to set this up. The aim is to take out the other suits and then put south into play, with their only option being to lead a heart.

Win the A♥, take out 2 rounds of diamonds to clear the suit and then lose a spade.

You should get a black suit returned, and now you can ruff out the clubs and spades to leave this position:



Now lead the 8♥ letting South win the J♥

South now either has to give a ruff and discard in clubs or give you the last 2 heart tricks!

The full hand:

