**2018 Hutton Christmas Puzzle - Lookout for Red Herrings**

**Question**

We can see all four hands below, but can you make 4 Spades on best defence?

The contract is easily made on either a Spade lead or a Diamond lead. You simply draw trumps and run the Diamonds (4 Spade tricks and 6 Diamond tricks = 10).

However, how do you arrive at 10 tricks, on best defence, when against your 4 Spade contract South leads the Ace of Clubs and switches to Ace of hearts followed by King of hearts, which you ruff? Having lost two tricks, what is your best line of play to make ten tricks?

**North**

**♠** J83

♥ Q943

♦ 2

♣ K8754

**West                                      East**

♠ AK74 ♠ QT92

♥ J862 ♥ T

♦ KQ ♦ AJ6543

♣ T96                                 ♣ QJ

**South**

♠ 65

♥ AK75

♦ T987

♣ A32

Answer :-

You need only two heart ruffs.

After ruffing the King of hearts, play Q of clubs and win any return. Then ruff a second Heart, play Q of spades the ten of spades to Ace then King of spades drawing last trump. Now play King of diamonds and then Queen, overtaking with Ace of Diamonds. Now the play the J of diamonds and throw away the last heart. The rest of the tricks are yours.

The red herring is thinking that you need the diamonds to rum to make your contract.