

## Don't give up

N/S on Board 5 had 25 combined points and a 5-3 heart fit. Deep Finesse (Double Dummy) says that ten tricks can be made, but all five declarers in a heart contract made nine tricks. The hands

N	♠97
	♥KQ1098
	♦AQ72
	♣K7
S	♠K3
	♥J54
	♦K64
	♣A10832

All declarers should take a moment at trick one to review the hand, count their winners/losers and make a plan. Assuming the worst you have two spade losers and the ♥A. What winners? Four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. We are a trick short; the tenth trick could be the ♠K or the fourth diamond or by setting up the clubs.

The ♠Q lead quickly removes option one.

The odds are against a 3-3 break in diamonds; this can be kept as a last resort. Do you try to ruff a diamond in the South hand? You will run into problems if they are 4-2, so you will need to take trump out. This will remove a vital entry before you can use it.

The club option is best; you are ruffing with high trumps so are safe from an overruff. Play the ♣K and over to the ace. Ruff a club, play a high trump, if ducked a lower trump towards the jack. If East ducks again you have a decision to make. Does west have Ax in hearts when it is best to duck? Does East have Axx in hearts when you must overtake with the jack? Human nature is such on the ♥K most defenders will play the ace and that sets up the jack as an entry. Now ruff another club setting up the fifth club for a diamond discard. The ♦K being your entry.

This brings to mind another bridge adage, play for the cards being in the place you want them to be to make the contract. A 4-1 heart split will wreck your chances, but as it turns out a little bit of care would have given you a top on this board.