

Teaser No. 39

♠ 6 4

♥ Q 7 5

♦ K Q 8 4 2

♣ A 10 2

Love All, Dealer: South

Contract: 6 ♥ by South

Lead: 9 ♦

E/W Silent

♠ A J 10

♥ A K J 8 6 2

♦ 10

♣ K Q 5

Plan the play - its duplicate pairs.

## Solution Teaser No. 39

Bidding to 6H and making the contract should yield a fabulous matchpoint score. Some pairs will stop in game, and some that bid the slam may run into a killing spade lead. Also, some may bid the slam, get the same diamond lead and then go down (not you, of course!).

The lead looks like a singleton or top of a doubleton. Even if it's from a longer holding, both the ace and jack are surely with East. The key moment is NOW! You must play LOW from dummy.

Let's assume the lead is a singleton, though nothing much changes if it isn't. If the king is played from dummy, the position will be after trick one will be

North  
Q843

East  
J7652

The queen is a winner and will provide a parking place for one spade loser but there is no chance of establishing a second diamond trick.

If a low card is played from dummy it will be

North

KQ84

East

A7652

There is no immediate winner but the KQ8 are now equals and a ruffing finesse against East will establish two diamond tricks. Both of the losing spades can be thrown on these two winners.

So, play low from dummy and let East win with the jack. If a low diamond is returned (no other play is better for the defence) ruff HIGH, draw trumps ending in dummy and lead a diamond. East's ace is trapped and you set up the two diamond winners that are needed. The ace of clubs provides a way back to dummy to enjoy them.

Only a 4-0 trump break will defeat this line of play.

Playing a top card from dummy at trick one completely destroys the power of the ten of diamonds, whereas playing low from dummy means the ten serves a useful purpose. It forces East to part with a critical high card.