

Teaser No. 40

♠ 5 4 3 2



♦ J 7 4 3

♣ Q 10 9 8 7

N/S GAME, Dealer: East

Contract: 6♠ by South

Lead: Q♥

East opens 1♥, South doubled, West bid 4♥. After 2 passes, South bids 4♠, West bids 5♥ and North 5♠. South raises to 6♠.

♠ A K Q J 9 8 7



♦ A 10 2

♣ K J 2

Plan the play – it's a teams' match.

## Solution Teaser No. 40

The contract will make easily if the ace of clubs is doubleton or singleton, but if that card is in a longer holding the defence will duck the first two rounds of the suit. That would leave declarer with the danger of losing a club and a diamond.

It is not often that you are dealt a double void and offered a ruff and discard at trick one.

The key play is to ruff in dummy and then ruff in hand as well! You cannot afford to throw a minor suit card from either hand as that would compromise one of your chances. In Teaser 36 we saw another example in which declarer was offered a ruff and discard. The best play on that occasion was not to ruff in either hand. This time the optimum play is to ruff in both hands.

So, ruff in dummy but win the trick in hand by playing a trump (the ace, if you like, for theatrical effect!) Then draw trumps, which won't take long. Now lead the king of clubs, which the defence must duck. Then lead the jack of clubs and overtake with the queen (or lead the two and play low from dummy) Again, the defence must duck to stop you scoring four club tricks. Prospects are not good if the play starts like this, but you can still succeed if East holds the ace of clubs

together with K9, K8, Q9 or Q8 of diamonds. Lead a low diamond from dummy and if East plays low finesse the ten. West wins and must return a diamond, but you win with the ace and then finesse the seven. The club loser in hand goes away on the jack of diamonds.

Note that it doesn't help West if they duck the first round of diamonds, nor does it help East to play high.

A difficult hand to end the series, very well done if you solved it!