

Teaser No. 41

North

♠ A Q J 8

♥ 5

♦ K Q J 10 9

♣ K Q 3

East

♠ 6 5

♥ A K 8 7 4 2

♦ 8 3

♣ A J 10

Game All, Dealer: North

Contract: 4♠ by South

Lead: 10♥

North opened 1♦, you bid 1♥ and South 1♠. North Raised to game.

You are sitting East - Plan the defence – it's a teams' match.

Solution Teaser No. 41

Win the first trick and switch to the jack of clubs.

There is no hope of four tricks unless partner holds the ace of diamonds and declarer at least three clubs. Furthermore, the defence must score two club tricks before declarer gets a chance to take discards on dummy's diamonds. The dynamic club switch forces out a top card from dummy. This allows partner to win the first round of diamonds and play a club back. The defence takes a heart, a diamond and two clubs.

Note that if partner holds the king of trumps declarer will almost certainly hold the ace of diamonds and will score at least eleven tricks by way of a trump finesse. It is better to hope declarer holds the king of trumps and nothing in diamonds.

In a teams' game the suggested defence is clear cut. At pairs it would be reasonable to cash the ace of clubs at trick two rather than risk declarer making twelve tricks.

South held: ♠K10942, ♥QJ3, ♦7, ♣9642