

## Teaser No. 49

### North

♠ 7 2

♥ Q 4

♦ A Q 8 5

♣ A K 10 5 2

### East

♠ A 8

♥ A K J 5

♦ K J 9 7

♣ Q 4 3

Game All, Dealer: South

Contract: 4♠ by South

Lead: 2♥

South opened 3♠, North raised to game. ♠♣♥♦

You are sitting East - Plan the defence – its duplicate pairs.

## Solution Teaser No. 49

Play a LOW trump at trick two.

The opening lead suggests that partner holds four hearts and declarer, therefore, three. The 3S opening bid makes it highly likely that declarer has seven spades headed by the KQ, especially as they are in first seat and vulnerable. Declarer will therefore hold three cards in the minors. If they have a doubleton club, the suit is breaking 3-3 and will be established with a single ruff. If you win the first trick, cash a second heart, and then play ace and another trump you stop declarer ruffing their heart loser, but with trumps drawn they will play AK of clubs and ruff a club. The ace of diamonds is still in dummy as an entry and the losing heart goes away on a winning club.

By playing a low trump at trick two you keep control of the defence. Declarer can still play to establish the clubs but cannot enjoy a discard on a winning club because partner will still hold a small trump in their hand. If, instead, declarer plays a second round of hearts, hoping to ruff the third, you will win and cash the ace of trumps. Now you can cash a third heart to set the contract.

Note that the recommended defence works if declarer started with 0, 1 or 3 clubs as well (as would the inferior play of ace and another trump)

A trump switch was marked, but by retaining the ace you ensure that your side has the tempo and can counter any move by declarer.

South held: ♠ KQJ9653, ♥ 876, ♦ 4, ♣ 86