

## Teaser No. 50

### North

♠ Q J 6 4

♥ A Q J 3

♦ 6 5

♣ 9 5 2

### East

♠ K 10 5 3

♥ 9 6

♦ A 7

♣ A 8 7 6 3

E/W Game, Dealer: South

Contract: 5 ♦ by South

Lead: Q ♣

South opened 1 ♦, North bid 1 ♥, and South jumped to 3 ♦. North bid 3 ♠ probing for notrump, but South bid 5 ♦.

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

## Solution Teaser No. 50

Win the first trick and play a heart. Win the first round of trumps and play another heart.

Declarer's jump to 3 ♦ suggests that they hold all of the unseen high cards so prospects for the defence are not great. The best chance is to hope that South holds just two hearts (king doubleton) as you have doubleton yourself declarer cannot enjoy any discards on the long hearts until trumps are drawn. By leading the suit twice you sever the communications between declarer and dummy before all the trumps are drawn. The two winning hearts in dummy become redundant, and you will come to a spade trick in due course.

So, let us say declarer wins the first heart in hand and plays a top trump. You win and play a second heart.

When declarer wins this trick in dummy they will no doubt lead the queen of spades. It is essential to play LOW to this trick, even though you hold the ten of spades, for by covering you would establish the jack as an entry back to the table. Once you have passed that test declarer has no winning option. They will

probably lead a third round of hearts at this point, more in hope than expectation, but you ruff in with your small trump.

South did well to avoid punting 3NT, which is destined to go a couple down, so you cannot compete with the E/W pairs that are defending that contract.

However, by defeating 5D rather than letting it through, you swing one matchpoint against every E/W pair that does let it make and a full two matchpoints against those defending a diamond part-score.

South held: ♠ A82, ♥ K5, ♦ KQJ10942, ♣ K