

## Teaser No. 55

### North

♠ Q J 10 3

♥ J 6

♦ 10 7 4

♣ K Q J 6 5

### West

♠ 6 5

♥ A K Q 3

♦ Q J 9 3

♣ 8 7 3

Love All, Dealer: South

Contract: 4♠ by South

Lead: K♥

South opened 1NT (12-14) North bid Stayman, South 2♠ and North 3♠ to invite.

East plays low at trick one, showing an odd number of cards

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

## Solution Teaser No. 55

Switch to a club at trick two.

There is not any room for an ace and a king in partner's hand, so there is no chance of scoring two diamond tricks and no chance of one diamond plus a black suit ace.

When a suit contract cannot be defeated by high card winners the defence needs to look for a ruff. There is a fair chance that declarer has four clubs as the play to trick one indicated they have just two hearts (they cannot have three as partner was dealt an odd number and cannot have four or they would have responded 2H to Stayman). The suit to hope for a ruff in is clubs. Therefore, play a club at trick two. Do not cash a second heart first as this would destroy the link with partner's hand. The recommended play works:

- i) when partner has a singleton ace of clubs
- ii) when partner has a small singleton club plus the ace of trumps

In both cases declarer cannot prevent a defensive ruff and will go one down. Partner will take whichever black suit ace they hold at the first opportunity and put you back in with a heart.

Is there any case for a diamond switch given that it is duplicate pairs? No! The club switch cannot gift declarer an extra trick. For instance, if partner's top card is the ace of diamonds they will not lose it. Even if declarer has five spades, there is no distribution of the minors that will allow them to discard all of their diamonds on dummy's clubs.

South held: ♠ K872, ♥ 108, ♦ AK2, ♣ A1094