

03. 2025 – Making the Impossible Happen

Dealer E all Vul

EW have (over) bid to 6H on this Hand, East is Declarer

		NORTH		
		KJ954		
		J62		
		98		
		965		
WEST	EAST			
10	AQ62			
A84	K9753			
AJ10743	-			
J103	AK82			
		SOUTH		
		873		
		Q10		
		KQ652		
		Q74		

Contract

6H by East

The Play

West leads DK. You take stock

You are sure to lose a Heart (assuming they break no worse than 3-2). So, you must lose no other Tricks. Outside of 4 Heart winners (assuming they break 3-2), you have 4 Winners SA, DA, CA and CK. That's only 8 Tricks

You can finesse both SK and CQ, hoping both are with North. But that's not enough to make 12 Tricks. You need a Cross Ruff to make

So, take DA throwing S2. Play a Spade to SQ (it wins – or if North plays SK, win with SA). Play your winning Spade, throwing C3. Then Ruff S6 low (if South is short and Ruffs, you over-Ruff)

Play C10 back to hand (noting North does not cover). Win with CK. Then play CA, then C2, Ruffing in Dummy. You note the Clubs have fallen 3-3, promoting C8 as the 13th Club and a winner. Then play HA, Ruff another Diamond to Hand, play HK and your 13th Club

North can have his winning HJ whenever he wishes. Slam made

MORAL OF THE STORY

Count your Tricks and come up with a plan to make your Contract. Here the SK must be with North and the Clubs must break 3-3 (or if 4-2, then CQ and C9 must be doubleton) All up, about a 30% chance

The alternative is to finesse North for both SQ and CQ (about a 30% chance if you play CA before the Club Finesse, hoping for a Singleton CQ)

Irrespective, your duty as Declarer is to have a Plan to make your Contract

Ian Morison

Friday 24 January 2025