

43.2024 – Dire Straits (Correction)

On 1 November 2024, I wrote this article, but it contained an error at the end – with 4 Cards left in each Hand, I said Play C5, and you must make.

In fact, you must play H3. My error.

How did this happen? I spent a few hours working out how 7S would make, Double Dummy, and I found the way.

But I did not type it up correctly

This was the Article – see H3 in **Red** at the end:

Dealer N Both Vul

Somehow, you end up in 7S as East in this Hand:

	NORTH	
	Q42	
	Q85	
	Q65	
	J762	
WEST		EAST
KJ96		A53
10942		AK3
AK74		J3
K		AQ1053
	SOUTH	
	1087	
	J76	
	10982	
	984	

Lead: D10

You look at Dummy. Things look bleak. If SQ is with South, Spades break 3:3, CJ falls under CA, CK or CQ and....lots more things go well

All very unlikely

What could save you? It is the duty of every Bridge Player to try to make the Hand

Your best (and only realistic) hope is a Cross-Ruff

Win DA, play SJ, North covers with SQ (correct play), win with SA. Play a small Club to CK. Play DK. Ruff a Diamond in Hand, 5 Tricks made so far

You are now in Hand:

	NORTH	
	42	
	Q85	
	-	
	J76	
WEST		EAST

K96	5
10942	AK3
7	-
-	AQ105

SOUTH

108
J76
9
98

You play CA followed by CQ, throwing 2 Hearts from Dummy. Then AK of Hearts

You are still in Hand:

NORTH

42
Q
-
J

WEST

K96
-
7
-

EAST

5
3
-
105

SOUTH

108
J
9
-

You play **H3**, and no matter what South plays, you have the rest (try it to see)

MORAL OF THE STORY

You must always try a path to make. Here as North covers SJ with SQ, you can make by cross-ruffing

Can you find this path? I doubt anyone could – it took me quite a while with the Hands laid out on the kitchen table

Addendum:

What if North does not cover SJ with SQ? Same result, with careful play...7S makes

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Friday 8 November 2024