

22- 2024 – Middle Ranking Cards

This problem comes from Andrew Robson, who writes in The Australian each Friday. He is a leading British player

Dealer S, Nil Vul

	NORTH		
	AQ93		
	754		
	A6432		
	6		
		EAST	
WEST		1054	
76		K106	
QJ83		KQ1085	
J9		Q10	
KJ972			
	SOUTH		
	KJ82		
	A92		
	7		
	A8543		
South	West	North	East
1C	P	1D	P
1S	P	3S	P
4S	P	P	P

Both S and N upvalued their Hands with a Singleton – 4S is bold bidding

THE PLAY

West led HQ

How should Declarer play?

Declarer has 3 Aces in the side Suits, so must make 7 Spades on a Cross-ruff

He cannot let the Defenders win a Trick, as they surely will play a Spade to limit the Cross-Ruff

There is one important Card missing – can you see it?

Well done if you did – it is S10

You should win HA, cash CA, ruff a Club low, then cash DA and Ruff a Diamond low

Then you should Cross Ruff Clubs and Diamonds with your top 4 Spades. You now have 9 Tricks, with S8 and S9 left, one in each hand

You play C8, ruffing with S9. West can over-ruff, but S8 is the 10th Trick in your hand (if West does not over-Ruff, then lead a Diamond back to S8, making 11 Tricks!)

MORAL OF THE STORY

Most of us do not look deep into suits, looking at A,K,Q and J – but often 10s and 9s and even 8s are important cards

Here making one of S9 or S8 gives you the tenth Trick to make your Contract

Ian Morison

31 May 2024