

# 42.2024 – Dire Straits

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## 1. Dealer N Both Vul

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

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	Q42	
	Q85	
	Q65	
	J762	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
KJ96		A53
10942		AK3
AK74		J3
K		AQ1053
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	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:

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	42	
	Q85	
	-	
	J76	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
K96		5
10942		AK3
7		-
-		AQ105
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	108	
	J76	
	9	
	98	

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

You are still in Hand:

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	42	
	Q	
	-	
	J	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
K96		5
-		3
7		-
-		105
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	108	
	J	
	9	
	-	

You play C5, 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

Next week: what if North does not cover SJ with SQ?

**Ian Morison**

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