

# 29- 2024 – Best Line of Play

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Dealer North, Nil Vul

## NORTH

J853  
AKQ85  
10  
J75

## WEST

K1076  
1063  
A53  
843

## EAST

AQ942  
74  
K82  
Q109

## SOUTH

-  
J92  
QJ9764  
AK62

## THE BIDDING

North	East	South	West
1H	1S	4H (1)	P (2)
P	P		

(1) I like the bid – South has ruffing values with no Spades, good Diamonds & great Clubs

(2) I might have bid 4S with this Hand NV, but West passed, so 4H it is

## THE PLAY

Naturally, West leads his Partner's suit (a Club is the best lead, but hard to find)

Many Declarers at the Bridge Club went 1 down, trying a Cross-Ruff – there are too few entries to North, and when in on a Diamond or a Club, East or West will surely play Hearts ruining the Cross-Ruff

The simple answer, after winning the Spade lead with a Ruff in Dummy, is to play a small Diamond to D10. West will surely put up DA, and then probably lead a Trump (a Heart)

Win this with HA in Hand, play a small Heart to HJ in Dummy (leaving only 1 Trump – H 10 - outstanding), play DQ and surely East will win this with DK (if not, play DJ – by chance, if West is out of Diamonds and Ruffs, you can Over-Ruff)

As the cards lie, you lose just 2 Diamonds, 11 Tricks made for a top

## MORAL OF THE STORY

Sometimes in card play, the simplest path is overlooked. A cross-ruff looks appealing, but you will be short if EW play Trumps when in with a Club or Diamond. You cannot get to North enough times to Ruff 3 Spade losers

**Ian Morison**

1 August 2024  
From Prague