

ACBL – BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

Abstention by Tim Bourke - Oct 17 2011

Dealer South Vul :Both	NORTH ♠7 3 2 ♥9 8 7 5 4 ♦K 7 5 ♣7 2	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠A Q 5 ♥A K Q J 10 6 2 ♦ — ♣A K 4	

North	East	South	West
--	--	2 Club	3 Diamond
Pass(1)	Pass	3 Heart	Pass
4 Heart (2)	Pass	6 Heart	All Pass

- (1) Promised at least a king (you would double with less).
- (2) Four diamonds would have been a general slam try.

West leads the ♣10. What is your plan to make your partner happy after he produces such a favorable dummy?

The idea is to avoid taking the spade finesse if possible. The way to avoid it on the layout below is to endplay West.

Solution

♠7 3 2

♥9 8 7 5 4

♦K 7 5

♣7 2

♠K 10 6

♥—

♦A J 10 8 6 4 3

♣10 9 5

♠J 9 8 4

♥3

♦Q 9 2

♣Q J 8 6 3

♠A Q 5

♥A K Q J 10 6 2

♦—

♣A K 4

After winning the first trick with the ♣A, you cross to dummy with the ♥9 and ruff the ♦5 high. Next you cash the ♣K and ruff the ♣4, eliminating that suit. Then you ruff dummy's ♦7 high. This allows you to return to dummy by leading the six of trumps to dummy's eight. Now comes the key play: You lead the ♦K and discard the ♠5 from hand.

After West wins this trick with the ♦A, he has no good return. A spade exit will run into your ace-queen while a fourth round of diamonds will allow you to ruff in the dummy and discard the ♠Q. Either way, you make 12 tricks. diamonds will allow you to ruff in the dummy and discard the ♠Q. Either way, you make 12 tricks