

ACBL – BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

Saving the match - Dec 19 2011

Dealer South Vul :N-S	NORTH ♠10 7 3 ♥Q 7 5 3 ♦A K J 4 ♣9 7	
	SOUTH ♠A K 8 2 ♥A J ♦7 3 ♣A K Q 6 5	

North	East	South	West
--	--	2 Club(1)	Pass
2 Spade(2)	X	3 Club	Pass
3 Diamond	Pass	3 NT	Pass
6 NT	All Pass		

- 1) Almost game forcing.
- 2) Three controls (ace = 2; king = 1).

West led the ♠ 4, covered by the 7, 9 and ace. If you were declarer, how would you play?

Solution

After winning the opening spade lead in hand, Tueje went after clubs, and things did not look good when East discarded the ♠5 on the third round.

On the fourth round of clubs, declarer pitched a diamond from dummy (a heart had gone on the third round) and East let go the ♠6.

West won the ♣J and switched to a low diamond. Declarer took the ♦A in dummy and played a heart to the jack. When that held, Tueje cashed the last club, West discarding the ♥6, dummy the ♠3 and East the ♦5. These cards remained:

	♠ 10	
	♥ Q 7	
	♦ K J	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ Q J
♥ 10 8 4		♥ K
♦ 10 8		♦ Q 9
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ K 8 2	
	♥ A	
	♦ 7	
	♣ —	

Reading the position perfectly, declarer cashed the ♥A and, rejecting the finesse, played a diamond to the king. Now the ♥Q put East to the sword, her spade discard allowing declarer to take the last two tricks in hand with the ♠K 8.

The contract at the other table was 3NT, plus 630 by South, so plus 1440 was good for a 13-IMP gain in a match the Indonesians won by 7.5 IMPs. The full deal:

	♠ 10 7 3	
	♥ Q 7 5 3	
	♦ A K J 4	
	♣ 9 7	
♠ 4		♠ Q J 9 6 5
♥ 10 8 6 4 2		♥ K 9
♦ 10 8 6		♦ Q 9 5 2
♣ 10 8 4 2		♣ J 3
	♠ A K 8 2	
	♥ A J	
	♦ 7 3	
	♣ A K Q 6 5	