

ACBL - BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

Elegant play - Aug 8 2011

This deal comes from the Women's Pairs at the 5th European Open Championships in Poznan, Poland, this summer. It features an American star, Janice Seamon-Molson, playing with German champion Sabine Auken.

Dealer East Vul :None	NORTH ♠9 2 ♥A 10 3 ♦K 10 5 ♣A K 10 8 3	
WEST		EAST
	SOUTH ♠A K Q 5 ♥Q 7 6 ♦Q 9 8 4 ♣Q 4	

North	East	South	West
--	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4 NT	All Pass		

West leads the ♥2, and you win the 8 with your queen. You are playing pairs, so you want to take as many tricks as possible. What is your plan?

Seamon-Molson, South, could have tried to guess the location of the ♦J, but she found a more elegant route to a fine score.

Solution

At trick two, she led the ♦4 from hand, playing dummy's king when West followed low. She then played a low club to the queen and another to the ace. When the ♣K showed that clubs were 3-3, she cashed two more rounds of the suit, pitching a heart and two diamonds from her hand. She then played a spade to the ace and cashed the king to reach this position:

	♠ —	
	♥ A 10	
	♦ 10 5	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ J 10 8
♥ K J		♥ —
♦ A J		♦ 6
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ Q 5	
	♥ 7	
	♦ Q	
	♣ —	

When Seamon-Molson cashed the ♠Q, West was caught in a squeeze without the count. West eventually let go of the ♦J, so Seamon-Molson pitched the ♥10 from dummy and played the ♦Q, setting up the ♦10 for trick number 12 and 76.09% of the matchpoints. The full deal:

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