

It's a lock - May 9 2011

Dealer East Vul :E-W	NORTH ♠K 6 5 3 2 ♥8 6 5 3 ♦K 5 2 ♣ 4	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠A Q J 10 9 7 ♥K ♦10 7 3 ♣10 7 3	

North	East	South	West
--	1 Heart	1 South	2 Heart
4 Spade	All Pass		

West leads a top-of-nothing ♥9 to his partner's ace, felling your singleton king. East shifts to a low club, which you win with the ace. How do you plan to take 10 tricks? Hint: the contract is cold.

Solution

East is likely to hold the ♦A, so there is no point in leading up to dummy's king. It is better to plan an endplay on East. Suppose this is the full deal:

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

Your best plan after winning the ♣A is to play a spade to the king, then ruff a heart. If trumps were 2-0, pull the other one and ruff a club, then ruff a heart. You enter dummy with a second club ruff and play the ♥8.

When East covers dummy's heart, discard a diamond from your hand. East is on play and must break diamonds, allowing the king to score, or give you a ruff-sluff by playing a heart or a club. You discard a second diamond from hand as you ruff in dummy, conceding a diamond at the end.