

Thanks to TIM BOURKE of Australia

Quiz No 19.

SUITABLE

Dealer: South Vul: E - W	NORTH ♠AK8542 ♥KQ5 ♦64 ♣A7	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠3 ♥A97643 ♦AQ532 ♣3	

North	East	South	West
--	--	1 Heart	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	3 Diamond	Pass
3 Spade	Pass	4 Club	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 Heart	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 Heart	All Pass

After North's strong jump shift and a check on controls, you find yourself playing a small slam. West leads the king of clubs. What is the best plan to make twelve tricks?

## SOLUTION

The surest way to make twelve tricks is to set up dummy's spade suit. After winning the opening lead with the ace of clubs, your first move step should be to play a trump to the ace in your hand. If they prove to be 4-0, you would need a 3-3 spade break and so would play the spade ace-king and ruff a spade. If the spades did break, you could then cross to the queen of trumps and play good spades, throwing your remaining diamond losers. When the defender ruffed with his penultimate trump, you could win his return and return to dummy with the trump king to enjoy the rest of the spades.

When both opponents follow to the first round of trumps, this is the type of hostile layout where you need to find the right play to succeed:

Dealer: South Vul: E - W	NORTH ♠AK8542 ♥KQ5 ♦64 ♣A7	
WEST ♠107 ♥J108 ♦K1097 ♣KQJ4		EAST ♠QJ96 ♥2 ♦J8 ♣1098652
	SOUTH ♠3 ♥A97643 ♦AQ532 ♣3	

The way to overcome any 4-2 spade break is to play the three of spades from hand and the two from dummy! Then you will be able to win the return, cross to dummy with the queen of trumps and ruff a spade in your hand. You can then get back to dummy with the king of trumps, drawing West's last trump in the process, and discard your four diamond losers on the spade ace-king and the two long spades.