

Thanks to TIM BOURKE of Australia

Quiz No 27 ENVELOP

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

North	East	South	West
--	--	1 Heart	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
4 Club	Pass	4 Heart	Pass
5 Diamond	Pass	5 Spade	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7 Heart	All Pass

After North's Jacoby two notrump enquiry, showing a game-forcing raise in hearts, you showed a spade shortage with three spades. Your cue-bid of five spades revealed your first-round spade control and North used the Grand Slam Force to ask about the quality of your trumps. West leads the three of trumps. How do you plan to make your contract?

SOLUTION

As long as the diamonds are not 4-0, making thirteen tricks may seem a simple matter but there are hidden traps. If trumps were 2-2, you would have thirteen easy tricks by drawing trumps, then running the diamonds while ruffing two clubs in dummy. Similarly, if the diamonds were 2-2 and the trumps 3-1, you could ruff two clubs in dummy and use spade ruffs for communications; then after cashing the ace-king of diamonds, you would cross to the hand with the ten of diamonds and then cash dummy's remaining diamonds for your contract. However, difficulties arise when the trumps are 3-1 or 4-0 and the diamonds are 3-1. Suppose the full deal is:

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

In order to run the diamond suit here, you need to cash dummy's three diamond tops, which blocks the suit. So you will need a late entry back to dummy to cash the last diamond winner. Consequently, ruffing two clubs in dummy will not be successful when neither red suit divides evenly. Instead you must look for another plan, a dummy reversal. The idea is to ruff dummy's three spades in hand and finish in dummy by drawing trumps, discarding a diamond on the last trump.

Having formed this plan, a key moment comes immediately. Unless you play dummy's six of trumps, the contract will fail when the full deal is as above. The problem is that if you carelessly play a higher trump you will not have the entries to ruff three spades and draw trumps ending on the table.

If the six is covered, trumps will be 3-1 at worst and ruffing three spades in hand for the contract will be easy. On the above deal, when East shows out, dummy's six wins the trick and you ruff a spade immediately. After returning to dummy with the ace of clubs, you ruff a second spade with the king. A diamond to the ace is followed by a third spade ruff, with the ace. You then overtake the jack of trumps with the queen and draw trumps with the 10-9 (which is why not playing the six at trick one is fatal). On the last trump, you discard a blocking diamond from hand. All that will remain is to cash the king and queen of diamonds, which will see you cash the five and three of diamonds as your twelfth and thirteenth tricks.