

Lindsay's Challenge - November 2023 Newsletter

Challenge 24 - Caught in a Trap

<i>North</i>		
♠ 7 5 4		
♥ K J 8		
♦ K Q J		
♣ Q 6 5 3		
<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>
♠ K Q J 10 6		♠ 9
♥ 10 6		♥ 9 5 4 3 2
♦ 9 5		♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ K 9 8 7		♣ J 10
<i>South</i>		
♠ A 8 3 2		
♥ A Q 7		
♦ A 10 3		
♣ A 4 2		

How can South make Three No Trumps when West leads the Spade King?

There are an endless number of ways in which an opponent may be trapped at Bridge and forced to lead away from honour cards. Some of these plays are difficult, while some are essentially simple.

Declarer correctly permitted West to win the opening trick with the aim of blocking the opponents' communication. West continued with the spade Queen. When East produced a diamond there was no reason to hold off any longer and South won with the Ace.

A count of winners shows six in the red suits and the Ace of clubs - a total of eight tricks in all with the spade Ace included.

There is absolutely no future in trying at this stage of the game to win an extra trick in clubs. If West has the club King it will be an entry for the winning spades. If East holds it the Queen will not make, meaning only one trick in clubs. Of course, there is a remote possibility of dropping a singleton King of clubs. But after South had run off the six red suit winners, counting the opponents' cards showed that West had started with four clubs and East with two. West threw two clubs in the process.

At the ninth trick Declarer led a small spade permitting West to take three spade tricks. Dummy was now down to Q 6 of clubs, South to A 4 of clubs. But that was the finish for the defence. West had to lead back a small club at the twelfth trick. Dummy's club Queen was tried and it won. The Ace of clubs took the final trick to make the game