

Lindsay's Challenge - August 2020 Newsletter

Challenge 6

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

How can South make Six Spades after West leads the King of Clubs?

South does not have enough trumps to ruff four rounds of clubs and then get to dummy to cash the rest of the clubs. East has one trump too many and West is never going to do anything to unguard the heart Queen. The answer is to put West in with the heart Queen at the right time so that South's heart suit can make. This means unblocking the second heart winner in dummy by discarding it on a trump.

The play is therefore straightforward - you ruff the first club, cash the diamond Ace and heart Ace, and then draw trumps in four rounds. On the fourth round of trumps you discard the heart King. You then give West a trick with the heart Queen and whatever is returned you win in hand as you have one trump left if a club is led, or you have the diamond queen as an entry for the rest of the hearts. If West ducks the heart lead you just keep leading them until West has to win the trick.