

Lindsay's Challenge - May 2018 newsletter:

End Play in Trumps

North

♠ **K 7 6 4**
♥ **A 7 3**
♦ **K J 10 4**
♣ **A 8**

West

♠ **Q J 10 2**
♥ **6**
♦ **7 6 3**
♣ **9 6 5 4 2**

East

♠ **A 9 8 3**
♥ **K Q 5**
♦ **8 5 2**
♣ **K 10 7**

South

♠ **5**
♥ **J 10 9 8 4 2**
♦ **A Q 9**
♣ **Q J 3**

How can South make 4 Hearts with Q spades lead from West?

Against South in four hearts, West led the Q of spades. The king and ace covered, and East returned a spade which South ruffed.

The jack of hearts was led from the closed hand and allowed to run when West played low. East won and returned another spade. South again ruffed.

At the fifth trick declarer led another heart. When West failed to follow, dummy's ace was played leaving East holding the winning trump.

To eliminate spades, declarer led the remaining spade from the table and placed a heart upon it. By counting the parcels of spades as they had appeared on the various tricks - four, three, three, three - all cards in that suit had now been accounted for.

Now declarer ran the diamond suit. Once again three rounds accounted for all the adverse diamonds when both opponents followed throughout. The jack of diamonds in dummy won the tenth trick. South discarded a club as did East.

Declarer now knew that East had no spades or diamonds left. East also held the king of trumps and so all East's other remaining cards must of necessity be clubs.

The last heart was therefore led from the table. Thrown in with the king, East had to return a club from the guarded king of clubs. Declarer won the last two tricks to make the game.

This sounds very simple, yet from experience I know that many players would take the club finesse and be beaten in their game when it failed.