

Lindsay's Challenge - November 2017 newsletter:

Double Simple Coup

North

♠ 7 2

♥ Q J 6

♦ Q 8 6 2

♣ Q 10 5 3

West

♠ 8

♥ 4 3

♦ J 10 9 4 3

♣ K J 7 6 4

East

♠ J 6 5 3

♥ 10 9 8 2

♦ K 7

♣ 9 8 2

South

♠ A K Q 10 9 4

♥ A K 7 5

♦ A 5

♣ A

How can South make 6 Spades with J diamonds lead from West?

When West led the diamond Jack, North covered and East's King forced the Ace. Provided the trumps broke there was nothing to worry about since South had only one outside loser - the 5 of diamonds. But when South cashed the Ace and King of spades, West showed out on the second round to disclose that East held the Jack covered. Declarer set about picking up this control card. The first step was to cash the Ace of clubs, then cross to dummy with the Jack of hearts and trump a club with the four of spades. The Queen of hearts served as an entry to table for another ruff with the nine of spades. South's trump holding was now reduced to the same length as East's. The Ace of hearts followed. When West failed to follow, declarer knew the plan had succeeded for East was placed with the remaining heart. At the eleventh trick declarer led the losing diamond 5. West won and now led the King of clubs. East was trapped, holding the Jack and six of spades while South sat over them with the Queen and ten. Regardless of which card East chose to play, South could overtrump and take the last two tricks.