

Dummy

♠ 105  
♥ AQ965  
♦ Q108  
♣ J65

You

♠ KQJ9  
♥ K104  
♦ A765  
♣ A2

You find yourself in 4 hearts. (The reason you are declarer, instead dummy who has the long hearts, is because you play weak NT and had a transfer auction.)

The opening lead is the 9 of clubs. You have 1 club loser and 1 spade loser for sure. You hope to have no heart losers and at most one diamond loser, either by pitching 2 diamonds on spades or by guessing the diamond situation correctly.

You duck the first club and win the second. You now play the K of hearts and a low heart to the A. Unfortunately, RHO shows out. So much for your carefully thought out plan.

How do you finish playing the hand?

Send your answers to me: [billpuzzles@bridgesights.com](mailto:billpuzzles@bridgesights.com)

## The Answer

If LHO has 3 or more spades, you can still make the hand, because you can still pitch your diamond losers on the spades.

Here is the entire hand:

### Dummy

♠ 105  
♥ AQ965  
♦ Q108  
♣ J65

### LHO

♠ A76  
♥ J1032  
♦ 432  
♣ 987

### RHO

♠ 8432  
♥ 7  
♦ KJ9  
♣ KQ1043

### You

♠ KQJ9  
♥ K84  
♦ A765  
♣ A2

To review, you ducked the first club, and won the second club. You played the K of hearts and a heart to the Ace, discovering the bad break.

Since you now have a heart loser, you have to throw your diamond losers on spades.

So ruff your club loser with the 8 of hearts, and play spades. LHO will eventually have to win the Ace of spades. His best return is a diamond. Win the Ace of diamonds. On the third spade pitch a diamond. Now play your last spade.

No matter what LHO does, you make your contract. If LHO does not ruff, you pitch dummy's last diamond. Even if LHO ruffs, you still pitch the diamond; this is known as a "loser on loser" play, since LHO's trump is a winner. In either case, you only lose one more trick, a trump to LHO.