

Dummy

♠AJ7

♥QJ92

♦5

♣A10963

You

♠65

♥K10863

♦AJ107

♣84

You are in 4 hearts. The opening lead is the 10 of spades. Plan the play.

Send your answers to me: billpuzzles@bridgesights.com

The Answer

Dummy

♠AJ7
♥QJ92
♦5
♣A10963

You

♠65
♥K10863
♦AJ107
♣84

You have a club loser, a spade loser, and a heart loser for sure. You could try and ruff three diamonds in dummy, but the defense will most likely play the Ace of hearts and another heart, allowing you to ruff only 2 diamonds, and leaving you with a diamond loser.

The best line of play is to execute what is known as a “dummy reversal”. The basic idea is to set up dummy by ruffing dummy's losers in declarer's hand. You have to ruff one spade in your hand. You can set up dummy's clubs by ruffing either one club (if clubs are 3-3) or two clubs (if clubs are 4-2) in your hand.

Win the first spade. Play the Ace of clubs and a club. The best defense is for the opponents to play Ace and another heart. If hearts are 2-2, you are all set, as you have 3 trumps left in your hand to ruff two clubs and a spade.

Otherwise, ruff a club. If clubs are 3-3, you are all set. Dummy's last two clubs are good. You can draw the last trump, and still have a trump remaining to ruff dummy's third spade.

If neither clubs break nor hearts break, you are down one.