

Dummy

♠AJ98

♥965

♦QJ10986

♣

You

♠Q10654

♥KJ2

♦4

♣KQ42

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1S	P	4S	P
P	P		

Your creative partner bids an optimistic 4 spades. You get the J of clubs opening lead. Hopefully, you can justify her confidence by making 4 spades. What is your plan?

Send your answers to me: billpuzzles@bridgesights.com

The Answer

Dummy

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Even if you are able to ruff out all the clubs, you have one heart, one diamond, and one spade loser for sure (if you ruff all the clubs, you will lose the K of spades, since you ruffed one of your clubs with the Ace of spades). And good defenders will not let you ruff all your clubs. So a better plan is to duck the first club, pitching a heart in dummy.. A mediocre defender will cash the Ace of hearts, and you will be home free if the K of spades is onside, losing a diamond, a club, and a heart.

If the defense returns a low heart at trick 2, I suggest you insert the J, assuming it is difficult for a defender to underlead the ace of hearts. If it turns out that LHO has the Q and RHO underled from the Ace, you should congratulate your opponents on their excellent defense, and perhaps caution partner to bid a little more cautiously against these opponents!