

North
♠AJ6
♥Q4
♦94
♣AQ10543

West
♠K954
♥9
♦AQJ8532
♣7

East
♠1087
♥J1075
♦7
♣K9862

South
♠Q32
♥AK8632
♦K106
♣J

E/W Vulnerable

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1H	2D	3C	P
3H	P	4H	P
P	P		

Opening Lead: Club 7

Bridge is a partnership game, and a good partner is to be highly valued. Last puzzle featured the slam bidding talents of one of my BBO partners. This puzzle features the declarer play skills of magiemae (Claire), another of my favorite partners.

Because of the bad trump break, it appears that 4H should go down, losing two diamonds, one spade, and one heart. However, Claire found a way to make this hand. Can you do as well (even with the added advantage of seeing all four hands)?

Send your answers to me: billpuzzles@bridgesights.com

The Answer

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Claire won the opening lead with the Ace of clubs. She then played 3 rounds of hearts, discovering the bad break. She led a spade to the J, successfully finessing the K of spades. She then played the Q of clubs, and ruffed it when East covered with the K.

She led a spade to the Ace, and cashed the 10 of clubs, pitching a diamond. She led a low club which she ruffed in her hand. Claire has now won 9 tricks (3 high hearts, 2 ruffs, 2 clubs, and 2 spades). She then played the Q of spades, throwing West in with the K of spades. That left this position:

North
♠
♥
♦94
♣5

West
♠
♥
♦AQJ
♣

East
♠
♥J
♦7
♣9

South
♠
♥8
♦K10
♣

West is end played. She cannot prevent Claire from scoring either her low trump or the K of diamonds for her tenth trick. Say West plays the Ace of diamonds followed by the Q. If East ruffs, South will score her 8 of hearts. And, if East pitches, South will score her K of diamonds. Well done Claire!