

DON'S CORNER

by Don Gardner

Suppose you had to take a final exam for life mastership after earning the required points. The following is an example of a problem that could be on such an exam.

Dummy (N)

♠ A Q J 8 2

♥ A Q 8 4

♦ 2

♣ 10 7 3

Declarer (S)

♠ K 10 9 5 3

♥ 9 6 2

♦ A J

♣ A J 9

Here are the questions:

- 1) On a scale of 0-100%, what is your estimate for fulfilling your contract?
- 2) Now suppose you are given further information that the K♥ is offside (in East's hand) and the K♣ and Q♣ are also offside in West's hand. On the same scale as above, what is your estimate for success now?
- 3) You are now given further information that there is a 100% line for making your contract. Can you find it?

SCROLL DOWN FOR THE SOLUTION

SOLUTION

	Dummy (N)	
	♠ A Q J 8 2	
	♥ A Q 8 4	
	♦ 2	
	♣ 10 7 3	
West		East
♠ 7		♠ 6 4
♥ 7 3		♥ K J 10 5
♦ K Q 10 8 7 3		♦ 9 6 5 4
♣ K Q 4 2		♣ 8 6 5
	Declarer (S)	
	♠ K 10 9 5 3	
	♥ 9 6 2	
	♦ A J	
	♣ A J 9	

Here are the steps to success:

1. Win the A♦ and ruff your Jack
2. Draw two rounds of trumps
3. Place the A♥ (key play)
4. Come to hand with a trump
5. Lead a heart and cover whatever card West plays
6. East will win and likely return a club, which you duck to West.
7. Now what can West do?
 - a. Lead a diamond for a ruff and discard
 - b. Lead a heart (if he has one) and you cover
 - c. Lead a club to your AJ

If (a) ruff in dummy and discard your long club

If (b) either your Q♥ will win, or East will win with the King making your last heart in dummy good for a club discard, and

If (c) you have no second club loser.

Is this not a hidden treasure? No wonder we love this game so much!