# Hand 1

DLR: SOUTH
VUL NONE

## North

- **★**AKQ765
- **Y** K 10 6
- 98
- ♣ 8 7

## South

- **♦** J 10 9
- **Y**AQJ
- ♦ A Q 10 3
- ♣ A Q 5

## **E** W remain silent throughout

Can you bid this hand to the best contract? Can you play this hand in 6 spades with a low trump lead from West?

# Hand 2

**DLR: SOUTH** 

**VUL: N-S** 

North

**4** J 9 4 3

**y** 9

Q763

♣AQJ4

## South

**♠** AK62

**Y**A53

♦ J 5 2

1073

#### E remains silent through the bidding.

S opens 1C, West overcalls 1H, North doubles,... Can you bid this hand to the best spot? Can you make a 4S contract with the lead of KH from West. Do you have a plan for 10 tricks

#### Test Yourself - 2 hands to Bid and Play

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2NT
PASS	<b>4</b> ♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	PASS	4♠
PASS	4NT <sup>(2)</sup>	PASS	5 <b>♣</b> <sup>(3)</sup>
PASS	6♠	ALL PASS	

# Hand 1

- Both hands taken from American Contract Bridge League - ACBL
- Set out with the help of North Shore Bridge

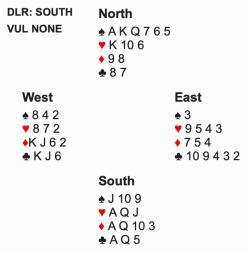
- 1. Transfer to spades
- 2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
- 3. 0 or 3 key cards

After opening 2NT (20-21), you quickly find yourself in what appears to be a good contract at the six level. West kicks off the defensive effort with a low trump. Do you like your chances to bring this

### **Solution**

After the trump lead, when dummy appeared, declarer counted 11 top tricks. If trumps were 2-2, Declarer saw that he could make certain of a 12<sup>th</sup> trick on an elimination play: draw trumps, cash the hearts and play a diamond to the queen. If West won the trick, he would be endplayed. Declarer took the first trick in hand with the ♠9 and cashed the ♠J. Alas, trumps proved to be 3-1, West having the length. The elimination plan had to be abandoned.

Declarer drew the last trump and was about to play on diamonds when a thought struck him: It would cost nothing to take the heart winners first. Backing his judgment, declarer cashed the ♥A, ♥Q and ♥K, then led the ♦9 to the queen. West won with the king and had only minor-suit cards remaining. It was clear to West that declarer had the ♠Q, so West exited with the ♦J, hoping his partner would produce the 10. Declarer won with the ◆A and threw a club on his good ♦10: He had six trumps, three hearts, two diamonds and a club to make his contract. Notice that if declarer hadn't cashed the heart winners, the contract would have failed because West would then have had a safe exit in hearts. If West had started with more than three hearts, declarer could have ruffed in dummy when West continued that suit, then cashed the ◆A and ruffed the ◆3. If the ◆J was still outstanding, declarer would have fallen back on the club finesse to make the contract. The full deal:



#### Test Yourself - 2 hands to Bid and Play

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♣
1♥	DBL	PASS	2♠
3♥	4♠	ALL PASS	

Hand 2

Against your 4♠ contract, West leads the ♥K. Do you have a plan idea for getting to 10 tricks?

### Solution

After the opening lead was tabled, declarer saw that to have any chance at his contract, he needed to limit his black-suit losers to one. For starters, he needed spades to be 3-2 and either a doubleton ♠Q or the ♠K onside. So, after winning the first trick with the ♥A declarer led a low club to West's 9 and dummy's jack. Once the latter held, declarer crossed back to hand with a trump to the ace to lead a second low club toward dummy. When the ♠K appeared, declarer won with the ace and played a low trump to his king, gratified to see that the suit had broken 3-2.

Declarer now had the contract in sight: he continued by ruffing a heart, then played a low club to his 10. After ruffing his remaining heart in dummy, declarer cashed the  $extit{L}Q$ , throwing a diamond from hand. Declarer had made nine tricks and as he had two diamonds and two trumps left, the defenders could score only two diamonds and a trump.

Note that it was essential to play two low clubs from hand on the first two rounds of the suit. If declarer had led the ♣10 at trick two, West would have covered it with the king, thereby restricting declarer to three club tricks, leaving him a trick short of his contract. The full deal:

