

## Hand 1

DLR: SOUTH

VUL NONE

**North**

♠ A K Q 7 6 5

♥ K 10 6

♦ 9 8

♣ 8 7

**South**

♠ J 10 9

♥ A Q J

♦ 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**

♠ J 9 4 3

♥ 9

♦ Q 7 6 3

♣ A Q J 4

**South**

♠ A K 6 2

♥ A 5 3

♦ J 5 2

♣ 10 7 3

**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

### Hand 1

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

- 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:

DLR: SOUTH VUL NONE		<b>North</b> ♠ A K Q 7 6 5 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 8 7	
<b>West</b> ♠ 8 4 2 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ K J 6 2 ♣ K J 6		<b>East</b> ♠ 3 ♥ 9 5 4 3 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ 10 9 4 3 2	
	<b>South</b> ♠ J 10 9 ♥ A Q J ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ A Q 5		

## 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 ♠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:

**DLR: SOUTH**  
**VUL: N-S**

**North**

♠ J 9 4 3  
♥ 9  
♦ Q 7 6 3  
♣ A Q J 4

**West**

♠ 7 5  
♥ K Q J 10 7 4  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ K 9

**East**

♠ Q 10 8  
♥ 8 6 2  
♦ K 9 4  
♣ 8 6 5 2

**South**

♠ A K 6 2  
♥ A 5 3  
♦ J 5 2  
♣ 10 7 3