



Plan the Play for this hand

North East South West

1NT Pass

2NT Pass 3NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening Lead: 5♦

DUMMY (North)

♠ 10 5 3

♥ Q 7 6

♦ 8 4 2

♣ A K Q 2

DECLARER (South)

♠ K Q J 4

♥ J 8 4 3

♦ A Q 3

♣ J 6



How many top tricks do you have?

4 top tricks in Clubs and one in Diamonds making 5 altogether.

How many Diamonds has West got?

The 5♦ lead looks like a “fourth highest”. West started with at least four. If there were more than four the extras would be lower than the 5. You can see the 2, 3 and 4 in declarer and dummy, so West started with exactly four. By leading fourth highest from a suit with an honour at the top, West has given you a free finesse, top trick count now 6. Still three more to find.

Which suits are “friendly”? and which will you stay away from?

Seven cards in Hearts, and seven in Spades. That’s more than the opponents. You have six in Diamonds and in Clubs, that’s less than the opponents. Diamonds looks like a real threat.

Which high cards do you need to get the defence to play?

The Ace of Spades is between you and three other tricks. Once it’s played you can get your contract.

How many “entries” in dummy? (Ways to get the lead into dummy)

Dummy looks powerful, but there’s only one chance to transfer the lead to dummy. This is the second trick in clubs.

In which order will you play the cards in the spade suit?

Play the 4♠ “towards” dummy.

In which order will you play the cards in the club suit?

Crucial to play J♣ first, then play small to high cards in dummy.