

TELTSCHER TROPHY TRIALS

11/01/2025



Board 42 day 2 ♠ K J 9 4 2
 East Deals ♥ K 9 7
 Both Vul ♦ A Q J 9 5
 ♣ —

♠ 10 ♠ Q 8 6 5
 ♥ 5 4 ♥ A Q 6 3
 ♦ 8 7 6 2 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ A K 10 9 8 6 ♣ 4 3 2

♠ A 7 3
 ♥ J 10 8 2
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ Q J 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣ ¹
Dbl ²	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Drury, an invitational raise in spades
2. Lead directing

hoping the ♥Q was with West. After a spade to the eight, ace and ten, the ♥J was run to the ♥Q. East continued the trump force with another club, which was, again, ruffed in hand. The ♥K was taken by the ♥A, and East played his final club. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠K and 2 rounds of diamonds to leave this position:

♠ —
 ♥ 9
 ♦ Q J 9
 ♣ —

♠ — ♠ Q 6
 ♥ — ♥ 6 3
 ♦ 8 7 ♦ —
 ♣ A 10 ♣ —

♠ 7
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ J

On the play of the ♦Q, East had no answer. He eventually ruffed with the ♠Q, Frank discarded the ♣J, and East surrendered, but not before kicking himself for playing the ♠8 at trick 2!

So, if East could have defeated the contract on this line of play by holding on to the ♠8, how can declarer make 10 tricks against flawless defence after the same lead? The solution is to accept the trump force (like the “queens’ gambit accepted” at chess perhaps?) and continue with a dummy reversal. Ruff the club lead, spade to the ace, club ruff, diamond to the king, club ruff, and cash the ♠K and ♦A to leave this position:

♠ —
 ♥ K 9 7
 ♦ Q J 9
 ♣ —

♠ — ♠ Q 8
 ♥ 5 4 ♥ A Q 6 3
 ♦ 8 7 ♦ —
 ♣ A 10 ♣ —

♠ 7
 ♥ J 10 8 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ J

Once again, when declarer plays the ♦Q, East has no answer. He can take his 2 spade tricks but is then end-played in hearts. Declarer must come to 3 more tricks for game.

Gotta say though, that line of play was difficult enough to find double dummy (my robots helped), never mind at the table.