

## BLOOD OUT OF A STONE

<b>19</b>	♠ J2 ♥ T43 ♦ AQ742 ♣ K85	<i>Dir: S</i> <i>Vul: EW</i>	♠ T75 ♥ KJ5 ♦ T985 ♣ A62																														
♠ AK64 ♥ AQ862 ♦ 6 ♣ T73	♠ Q983 ♥ 97 ♦ KJ3 ♣ QJ94																																
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This board was played on Wednesday morning, October 2. You are West playing in 2H. North leads the JS. The computer says that you can make 9 tricks. How do you do it?

### Thoughts:

You have eight tricks off the top by way of 5 x hearts, 2 x spades and 1 x clubs....but where will the ninth come from?

The solution relates to the fact that you hold the four top heart honours and at least one of those in the dummy.

A common approach by declarer to make extra tricks is to ruff losers in one hand in the other, having shorted the latter, before drawing the defenders' trumps. The hand where the losers are ruffed is usually, but not always, shorter in trumps.

If the defence had led and continued diamonds, it might have been possible to ruff three of the diamond losers in dummy in your hand to achieve that extra trick (this is called a dummy reversal) but without that you have insufficient entries to do this.

On the surface, dummy with its 4-3-3-3 distribution seems to have no ruffing opportunities but that is actually not the case. Win the AS, play the KS and then another. North has nothing useful to discard on the third round of spades. Let's assume she discards a club. It doesn't matter what the defence leads now but West can win the trick, ruff the last spade high in dummy, play another high trump in dummy, play the AC and sooner or later get back to hand to draw the remaining trumps from hand.