

HEAD ON THE BLOCK

30	<p>♠ AQ64 ♥ 62 ♦ T642 ♣ J74</p>	<p><i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: None</i></p>																																							
<p>♠ K8 ♥ AQT95 ♦ J9 ♣ QT98</p>	<p>♠ J752 ♥ K43 ♦ KQ875 ♣ 5</p>	<p>♠ T93 ♥ J87 ♦ A3 ♣ AK632</p>																																							
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This Board was played on Monday September 30.

You are West in 4H and get a diamond lead. How do you make 11 tricks?

Thoughts:

Looks straightforward doesn't it? Win the AD, finesse the KH successfully, draw trumps in three rounds and then play off 5 x clubs ditching your losing diamond. That gives you 11 tricks with the possibility of a twelfth if the AS is on-side.

But wait this turns out to be a double dummy solution! Despite having nine clubs including the three top honours, the suit will easily become blocked if one defender has Jxx in clubs which is the case. The only way to make eleven tricks is to preserve the AC and KC in dummy before finessing North for the JC! When North plays the JC you can win in dummy return to one of your own clubs and then overtake the last of your clubs in order to discard your diamond on dummy's fifth club.