

Little Acorns become Mighty Oaks

You are South playing in 4S. The North and South hands are follows:

♠ AQ3
♥ A
♦ 984
♣ 987632

North dealer, the bidding proceeded:

North	East	South	West
Pass	1H	1S	2H
3S	4H	4S	

West leads the 7H. How do you make 12 tricks on this board?

♠ KT9872
♥ 432
♦ AQT
♣ Q

Thoughts:

If you trump a heart in dummy and the double finesse in diamonds yields two tricks you will make ten tricks. It will probably be risky to try to get two heart ruffs in dummy before drawing trumps but that would make 11 tricks. There may be a way to make 12 tricks even without taking a diamond finesse at all.

The type of declarer approach aims to set up a long side suit, normally in the hand with fewer trumps by ruffing out the defenders' winners in that suit.

This Board is of particular interest because the side suit is so weak and yet it yields three tricks.

Board 5, Monday Aug 12th

5	♠ AQ3 ♥ A ♦ 984 ♣ 987632	<i>Dir: N</i> <i>Vul: NS</i>																														
♠ J5 ♥ T75 ♦ K7632 ♣ KJT	♠ KT9872 ♥ 432 ♦ AQT ♣ Q	♠ 64 ♥ KQJ986 ♦ J5 ♣ A54																														
10 8 11 11		<table border="1" style="font-size: 0.8em;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	2	-	-	4	2	S	2	1	-	6	2	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																											
N	2	-	-	4	2																											
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E	-	-	1	-	-																											
W	-	-	1	-	-																											

Declarer wins the AH and leads a small club. Fearing declarer has the singleton KC, East rises with the AC and leads a diamond. Declarer plays the AD and a spade to the QS and then ruffs a club. Declarer then leads another spade to the AS noting that both the defenders follow suit before ruffing a third round of clubs. A heart can now be ruffed in dummy. Declarer, therefore makes 12 tricks by means of 6 x spades in hand, the two red Aces, a heart ruff in dummy and three little clubs.

If East leads a heart rather than a diamond, declarer ruffs in dummy, ruffs a second round of clubs enters dummy with the QS, ruffs a third round of clubs and enters dummy with the AS for the same outcome.