A CHRISTMAS POSER

By Alchemist

Submit your answers by email to the club by this Friday (13 December). Correct answers from members with fewer than 700 masterpoints will be drawn from a hat and the winner will receive a bottle of bubbly.

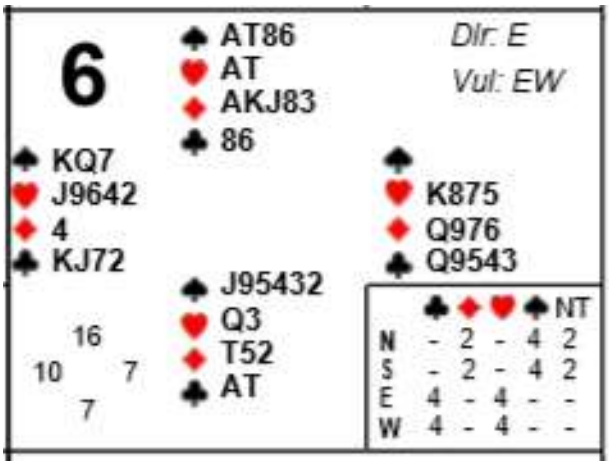
♠ AT86
♥ AT
♦ AKJ83
♣ 86

You are South. With E/W vulnerable and East dealer the bidding went:

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

♠ J95432
♥ Q3
♦ T52
♣ AT

You get the 4H lead. You let it run but East has the KH and makes the obvious switch to a club which you win with the AC. You have at least one spade loser so the diamond finesse must work. You take the diamond finesse and if it wins you can then play one round of spades in the hope that the remaining winning spade lies with a hand with three diamonds, but the diamond finesse loses and you find that you must still lose 2 x spades for a miserable two down. To add to your misery, the cynical computer tells you that 4S is makeable.



This is the board.

A bottle of wine goes to the first player with less than 700MPs that supplies the correct solution (Contract 4S played by South with 4H lead) to Alison Dawson (who solved the problem in under 10 minutes!).