

## A GAME OF MISTAKES

You deal and pass. Your partner opens 1NT in 3<sup>rd</sup> position. RHO passes and it's back to you.

<b>S</b>	South
♠	1054
♥	K109853
♦	
♣	K1064

You count 6 HCP, but in a heart contract you get 2 extra points for the 6-card trump suit as well as 5 more points for the diamond void. You have enough to force to game in hearts – even if partner has only 2 hearts. You should use the Texas Transfer bid of 4♦. This is a bid that says you don't want to go beyond game and you promise 6 or more hearts. Partner accepts the transfer and rebids 4♥ – the final contract.

East leads the ♣2. Take over for North and plan the play:

<b>S</b>	South
♠	1054
♥	K109853
♦	
♣	K1064

East leads ♣2

<b>N</b>	North
♠	Q2
♥	QJ
♦	AJ105
♣	AQJ53

You have two spade losers and the ♥A to lose. You can't afford to lose a club to a ruff by East. Surely, his ♣2 was a singleton. You win in your hand and play trump immediately, hoping the ♥A is in East, so he can't lead to his own club shortage.

As luck would have it, East comes up with the ♥A on the first heart lead and returns a small diamond. West puts up the ♦K and you win the ♦A, discarding a spade from the dummy. You pull a second trump with your remaining ♥J and get the bad news that trumps split 4-1. Go back to the dummy by leading the ♦J. East covers with the ♦Q and you ruff in the dummy. Pull the last 2 trump and run the remaining diamonds and clubs to take 12 tricks in all.

East should have switched to spades rather than to diamonds after he won the ♥A. Then they take two spade tricks holding you to 4♥. But mistakes are part the game and it sometimes is the opponent's mistake that keeps us coming back for more!

This is the entire deal:

15	D	N North	W	N	E	S
		♠ Q2	P	1NT	P	P
		♥ QJ	P	4♥	P	P
		♦ AJ105	P			
		♣ AQJ53	P			
W West		E East				
♠ KJ86		♠ A973				
♥ 6		♥ A742				
♦ K8742		♦ Q963				
♣ 987		♣ 2				
		S South				
		♠ 1054				
		♥ K109853				
		♦				
		♣ K1064				
			4♥ N	NS: 0 EW: 0		

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You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/ycbgjong>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.