

♠♥♦♣ GAME ON 16 HCP ♠♥♦♣

Your partner deals and opens 1♣. East overcalls 1♦ and this is your hand.

S	South
♠	85
♥	A87652
♦	10732
♣	3

You have only 4 HCP, but your Heart suit adds 2 points for length. In today's ultra-aggressive bidding style, you offer up your hearts with a response of 1♥.

West advances 2♣ which is cue bid, defined as a strong Diamond raise. Your partner jumps to 3♥. In competition, this is a raise showing 4 Hearts, but not necessarily a strong opening hand.

You have an 8 Losing Trick Count hand, but 4 of your losers are in Diamonds. The opponents have shown a minimum of 8 Diamonds themselves. So, your partner can't have more than one Diamond. Now your Losing Trick is reduced to 6 – or even 5, if your partner has a void in Diamonds. Furthermore, at least one of your Heart losers is sure to be covered by one of four Hearts. This should be an easy raise to 4♥.

West leads the ♠A

N	North
♠	Q104
♥	K943
♦	8
♣	AQJ105

West Leads: ♠A

S	South
♠	85
♥	A87652
♦	10732
♣	3

After looking at your dummy, you notice 3 great features: the ♥K, the singleton Diamond and an almost solid Club suit.

You play the ♠5 from the Dummy and East signals discouragement with the ♠3. West switches to the ♦K and receives a suit preference signal from her partner – a low card signaling a desire for a Club lead.

West dutifully switches to the ♣2. What do you play from the Dummy?

You have read East's signal and know he hold the ♣K. You must not let them into the lead until you rid them of their 3 trumps. You go up with the ♣A and play the ♥K and then the ♥A dropping all their Hearts.

You are in your hand and lead up to the ♠Q. West takes his ♠K and goes back to Clubs. You ruff and use the remaining Hearts to get to the Dummy to run the rest of his Clubs, discarding all your losers, losing only 1 Diamond and 2 Spades.

You started with a combined holding of 16 HCP. It is evident that Shape trumped Strength in this hand!

This is the entire deal:

D		N North		W	N	E	S
1		♠ Q104			1♣	1♦	1♥
		♥ K943		2♣	3♥	P	4♥
		♦ 8		P	P	P	
		♣ AQJ105					
W West				E East			
♠ AK72				♠ J963			
♥ J10				♥ Q			
♦ KQJ				♦ A9654			
♣ 8642				♣ K97			
		S South					
		♠ 85					
		♥ A87652					
		♦ 10732					
		♣ 3					
				4♥ S			NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<http://tinyurl.com/279rhxjy>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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