♠♥♦♣ PREPARE FOR THE UNUSUAL ♥♦♣

You are the dealer with this hand:

S South
- ♠ A43
- ♥ KQ1032
- ♦ A82
- ♣ Q3

The bidding proceeds:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♣[1]	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

[1] Game Force

After partner's game forcing response, your 2NT rebid show a balanced hand with 5 hearts. Partner's jump to 4♥ is his way of saying he has about 13 points and has no slam intentions.

West leads the ♦Q and you see this dummy - plan the play:

N North
- ♠ K7
- ♥ A65
- ♦ K754
- ♣ K642

West leads ♦Q

S South
- ♠ A43
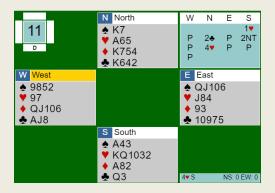- ♥ KQ1032
- ♦ A82
- ♣ Q3

It might look pretty easy. You have a diamond and a club loser. But if hearts break 3-2, you can pick up all the trump after ruffing the third spade in the dummy. You will take 11 tricks.

But what if the hearts break 4-1? If the long trump is in East, you must abandon the spade ruff and must lead a small spade to your hand to finesse the ♥10. If West has the 4 hearts, you will surely lose a heart and so to make the contract, you must take the spade ruff.

You can determine the heart distribution and keep all your options open by playing the ♥K and ♥A in that order. That puts you in the dummy where you can lead the last heart to your hand if West shows out. If East shows out, you must get back to your hand after playing dummy's ♠K and leading to your ♠A for the spade ruff. It will do West no good to trump your third spade because you will then be able to pull West's last trump to make your contract.

You'll notice that both opponents follow to the ♥KA, so you can take your 11 tricks on this layout.

Look at the entire deal:

N	North		W	N	E	S
	♠ K7					1♥
	♥ A65		P	2♣	P	2NT
	♦ K754		P	4♥	P	P
	♣ K642		P			

W	West		E	East
	♠ 9852			♠ QJ106
	♥ 97			♥ J84
	♦ QJ106			♦ 93
	♣ AJ8			♣ 10975

S	South	
	♠ A43	
	♥ KQ1032	
	♦ A82	
	♣ Q3	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

This hand demonstrates the difference between a declarer who relies on the normal distribution and when he encounters bad distribution writes it off as bad luck; and the declarer who plans for the unexpected contingency

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

http://tinyurl.com/y58a6u6x , 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.