## ♠♥♦♠ ENLIST THE OPPONENTS' HELP♠♥♦♠

You are the dealer, with this hand:



You open  $1 \heartsuit$  and your partner responds  $3 \heartsuit$ . This is a limit raise, promising 4 Hearts and 11-12 points. You raise to  $4 \heartsuit$ . You may be a little short on points but you hope that the singleton Spade will produce an extra trick.

West leads the ◆J and this is your dummy:



West's Lead: ◆J



You have no losers in Hearts, but you do have one loser in each of the pointed suits. That means you can only afford 1 loser in Clubs.

The ♠A and ♠J are outstanding. If you could guess their postions, you could take 2 Club tricks. If you knew the ♠J was in West and the ♠A in East, you could lead up to the dummy and finesse the ♠10. Or if the two outstanding honors were reversed, you could lead up to the ♠K for a successful finesse, providing you with only 1 Club loser.

Making the guess if tough. Is there a better way?

Yes. It would be better to let the opponents help you by playing the Club suit themselves. When you hold the KQ in opposite hands, we call that a "frozen suit". That means we don't want to touch it. Whichever side lead it, that side is put to a disadvantage. The opposite side plays last to the trick and therefore, can pick up an extra trick.

This technique is called the "end play," and is one of the common techniques for eliminating losers. Here's how it works:

First you must draw trump and leave at least 1 Heart in each hand. Then, you strip both yours and the dummy's hands of the other two non-trump suits. Finally, you throw the opponents into the lead with what's called an "exit card." Now they must either lead a Club, to which you play "second hand-low" and win as cheaply as possible; or they lead another suit, giving you a "rough and discard."

Win the Diamond lead and draw trump in two rounds with the ♥AK. Then give up a Spade. Regain the Diamond lead and ruff a Spade. Lead a low Heart to the ♥J and ruff the final Spade. Now throw the defenders into the lead with the last Diamond. Whatever they do, they can only take the ♠A, giving you your 4♥ contract.



You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y7h8xcnj">https://tinyurl.com/y7h8xcnj</a>, 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.