West dealt and opened $1 \star$. Your partner overcalled $1 \$$ and East passed. This is your hand:

## S South

It's not often you get dealt a solid seven suit. Hoping for a couple of tricks from your partner's overcall, you jump to $4 \bullet$ and everyone passes.

West leads the $\leqslant$ K. Take a look at the entire deal and figure out a way to make 4 .

| - 4 | N North |  | N | E | S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { KQJ109 } \\ & 64 \\ & \text { A974 } \\ & 53 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \stackrel{1}{P} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | P | 4 |
| W West |  | E East |  |  |  |
| - A865 <br> $\checkmark 8$ <br> -KQJ10 <br> \& A972 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 S S $\mathrm{NS}: 0 \mathrm{EW}: 0$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

You have 8 top tricks and you can always promote 1 Spade trick. But where will the $10^{\text {th }}$ trick come from?

The Declarer in this hand was the renown, Marty Bergen. He was able to engineer an endplay of West.

He ducked the first Diamond and won the $2^{\text {nd }}$ Diamond. This was the key play! Then, he ruffed a Diamond. While in his hand, he drew trump and led the 2 to the dummy. West played low, allowing Marty to win the $\AA$ K. While in the Dummy, he ruffed his last Diamond.

Now the stage was set for the endplay. He threw West in the lead with his last Spade. West was stuck. He could cash his A but then either had to lead a Spade, allowing Marty to discards his losing club; or lead a Club to Marty's K.

Yes, Marty was fortunate that West started with only four Diamonds, because if he had five, West could have exited safely with Diamond forcing Marty to ruff in his hand.

This is the entire deal:


You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:
https://tinyurl.com/yp3tkkce 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. https://tinyurl.com/2p3hmb44
© David Germaine 2023

