A V A NEED AN ENTRY A V A

West deals and passes. Your partner opens 1♠ and East doubles. This is your hand:



You have 14 HCP, but you have no Clubs. You could overcall 1♥, but you have another option. The Redouble.

A Redouble implies no fit for partner, 10 or more HCP and an unspoken agreement that your side will either take the contract, or will double the opponents in theirs. You have a minimum of 25 HCP and the opponents will be in trouble if they bid too high.

The redouble also has the advantage of learning West's longest suit. West advances with $1 \triangleq$ and your partner rebids his Clubs – $2 \triangleq$. East raises his partner to $2 \triangleq$ and it's back to you.

Your partner has shown 6 Clubs and will surely provide a source of tricks in Notrump, when combined with your high cards. You rebid 3NT and this is passed out.

West leads the $\blacktriangle 10$ and you see this dummy.



West Leads: ♠10



You play the ♠5 from the dummy, perforce, and East rises with the ♠A, returning the ♠J. Counting your top tricks, you now have 2 Spades, 1 Heart and 3 or more Clubs, if you can reach them. You also have an excellent shot at developing 3 more Hearts, and 1 Diamond.

What is your plan?

You need an entry to your Club tricks. You could lead a Diamond to the \blacklozenge K, hoping the \blacklozenge A is in West. That is 50%.

But there is a 100% option. Lead a low Heart up to Dummy. If this loses to the \bigvee K, win the return and lead again. East wins the \bigvee K on the first Heart lead, cashes the \bigvee A, and returns a third Spade.

One of the decisions you have to make, is what to discard from the Dummy on the Spade leads by East. The first discard can be the ◆5. Baring the ◆K won't hurt you because you have to lose one of those Diamond honors anyway. The second discard is harder. Your choices are a Heart or a Club.

Discarding the Club could cost a trick if the Clubs, in fact, run. But if they don't run, you will need the rest of the Hearts to complete your contract. That means you must leave two Hearts in the Dummy. One, to access the Clubs; and the other to get back to your hand to take the remaining Hearts.

Once in the Dummy, you cash the ♠AKQ10, with and East playing the ♠J on the first Club and showing out on the second. Missing the ♠9, you are limited to those four Club tricks. But you have the Heart to link back to the rest of the tricks from your hand. You have only lost 1 Spade, 1 Diamond and 1 Heart, for +430.

This is the entire deal:



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

https://tinyurl.com/2p3hmb44, 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

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