

♠♥♦♣ SET UP THAT SAVIOUR SUIT ♠♥♦♣

East is the dealer and opens 1♥. You overcall 1♠ with 9 HCP and a very nice spade suit:

S	South
♠	KQJ105
♥	874
♦	K63
♣	63

West raises his partner to 2♥ and your partner jumps to 4♠. This becomes the final contract.

West leads the ♥2 and North lays down this dummy:

N	North
♠	9864
♥	Q
♦	A98
♣	KQJ105

West leads the ♥2

S	South
♠	KQJ105
♥	874
♦	K63
♣	63

Your partner was very aggressive, considering you just overcalled at the 1-level. You could have had a weaker hand – but not much weaker.

There is no time to think about the bidding. You have to figure out how you're going to take 10 tricks.

You have 3 unavoidable losers in spades, hearts and clubs. You must eliminate the diamond loser. Any ideas?

East wins the initial heart lead and switches to diamonds. If you win this trick and start on trump, you will go down. East will win the first spade led and send back another diamond. You win with your last diamond honor and draw the rest of the trump, but when you force out the ♣A, West will win and play his last diamond for the setting trick.

The solution to this problem lies in the club suit. You can use the clubs to discard your losing diamond. But you must do this immediately – before they pull both your diamond controls. After you win the first diamond, forget about trump and force out the ♣A. They will then clear the diamond suit, but you go the dummy and run your clubs. East will ruff the 3rd club, but you will overruff. You will go back to the dummy by trumping a heart and play another top club. This time, East can't stop you from discarding the losing diamond. He will use his last trump, but it is the ♠A. You let him have that trick, but you will take the rest of the tricks after you pull West's two spades.

This was a problem in trump management. It is usually correct to "pull trump first" – but not always. When you have other work to do that can't be done if you lose the lead too many times, you must postpone the trump draw. Here, you have a "savior suit" – the clubs – that must be set up first.

This is the entire deal:

14 ^D		N North		E East	
		♠9864 ♥Q ♦A98 ♣KQJ105		♠A7 ♥AK1095 ♦QJ107 ♣94	
W West		W	N	E	S
♠32 ♥J632 ♦542 ♣A872		1♥ 1♠ 2♥ 4♠ PassPass Pass		0 0	
		S South		4♠ South	
		♠KQJ105 ♥874 ♦K63 ♣63		0 0	

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

<https://tinyurl.com/yhkt6mht>, 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.