

Bridge Puzzle
Vulnerability Both
Dealer: S

NORTH

♠2
♥AJ976
♦K73
♣K532

WEST

♠Q108764
♥85
♦85
♣A107

EAST

♠J9
♥KQ1032
♦QJ1042
♣Q

SOUTH

♠AK53
♥4
♦A96
♣J9864

Bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1C | 2S | 3H | X |
| P | P | 5C | P |
| P | X | P | P |
| P | | | |

Lead: 8 of hearts

In this puzzle you are allowed to look at all four hands and try to make 5C. There are two solutions that work, and lots more that do not.

There are two winning lines of play. The first is to set up the fifth heart by taking three ruffing finesses in hearts against east, starting at trick two, and then leading toward the king of clubs. West cannot gain winning the ace of clubs when clubs are first played or overruffing since that is his natural trump trick. The second is to lead the king of clubs from the dummy at trick two. That preserves the third needed entry to your hand to trump two spades and one diamond.

If you play a spade to your hand at trick two and lead a club toward the king, you win that trick but you only have two entries back to your hand (a heart ruff and a diamond.) When you try to trump a second heart, west can overruff and pull a trump from dummy so you can't trump either your fourth spade or your third diamond.