

	<i>North</i>				
Dealer:	♠	K652			
Vul:	♥	Q3			
	♦	J1097			
	♣	Q65			
	<i>West</i>		<i>East me</i>		
	♠	103	♠	J84	
	♥	K75	♥	A982	
	♦	AK654	♦	Q2	
	♣	732	♣	AJ104	
	<i>South</i>				
	♠	AQ97			
	♥	J1064			
	♦	83			
	♣	K98			
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Bidding:	N	E	S	W	
	P	1NT	P	P	HTML Bridge Hand Layout Creator
	P				

Board 5 on Friday afternoon, 28th February.

It seems a pretty ordinary hand, but playing it to get a good board requires very careful play. The bidding was quite normal, East opened 1NT, and everyone passed. South might have bid 2 Clubs, showing both majors, but they were a bit light, and vulnerable. West might have bid 2 Diamonds to play there, but minors don't score that well.

South got off to their best lead, a Spade, and on the 3rd round East has to choose a discard from dummy. There is no point in throwing a Diamond, after all, the Diamonds might break 3-3 for 5 tricks. So a small club is played. On the 4th round of Spades, happily breaking 4-4, the discards are critical. Declarer must discard a small Heart from both hands. This keeps the Diamond suit intact, the Club suit intact, and gives nothing away in the Heart suit. West now found the Heart switch.

Although there are only 2 Hearts left in dummy, it is important to leave the king there as an entry. So win the Ace of Hearts in hand, and play the Diamonds starting with the Queen. On the 3rd round of Diamonds South shows out, and now declarer is at the crossroads. They can give up a Diamond, setting up the 7th trick, with the King of Hearts as an entry, or they can play to try and make 2NT.! A club is now played instead of the 4th Diamond, and the 10 of Clubs finessed. This loses to the King of Clubs, and a Heart is returned to the bare King in dummy.

The second Club that you kept is now played from Dummy, and the Jack of Clubs finessed, and when that wins, your 6th trick, the Ace of Clubs is the 7th trick, and when the clubs break, the 4 of Clubs is your 8th trick. Making 2NT, 120, for a top board.