

## 13 - 2023 – A Better Line of Play

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Last week, I wrote about the following Hand, suggesting a Reverse Finesse of DQ to make the Contract, after drawing Trumps

Contract: 6S by South, with HK led by West

|              |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|              | <b>QJ104</b>  |              |
|              | <b>AJ9</b>    |              |
|              | <b>Q8643</b>  |              |
|              | <b>3</b>      |              |
| <b>652</b>   |               | <b>83</b>    |
| <b>KQ842</b> |               | <b>7653</b>  |
| <b>K72</b>   |               | <b>J10</b>   |
| <b>85</b>    |               | <b>QJ942</b> |
|              | <b>AK97</b>   |              |
|              | <b>10</b>     |              |
|              | <b>A95</b>    |              |
|              | <b>AK1076</b> |              |

A player (who wishes to remain anonymous) suggests a superior line of play, and I agree!

You have counted your winners – there are only 8 (4S, 1H, 1D and 2C), so you have some work to do to make 4 extra Tricks

This can be achieved by cross-ruffing

Win HA, and then play HJ, throwing a Diamond in Hand. West wins with HQ, and then probably leads a Spade (best), you win with SA. You cash DA, CA, CK and ruff a Club in Dummy

Then you play H9, throwing your last Diamond in Hand, then you cross-ruff the rest for 12 Tricks

This works so long as there are no very bad breaks in Hearts or Clubs

(Note EW cannot overruff, due to your high Spade cards)

This line works due to the HK lead – if another suit had been led – say a benign Spade (recommended), then the line I suggested last week is the only chance

### **MORAL OF THE STORY**

A cross-ruff especially when you have lots of high Trumps can be very effective

Thanks to Anonymous for his superior line of play!

[The only thing I can say in my defence is I had less than 4 minutes to decide how to make the contract as the move clock was getting low, and my line did work for me]

**Ian Morison**  
Bridge lover  
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