

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

	N	E	S	W
♠KQ53				
♥Q107				
♦K				
♣J10965				
♠J984	♠102			
♥A43	♥85		Contract: 6♥ by South	
♦108	♦J97652		Lead: 3♥	
♣K874	♣Q32			
♠A76			Always count your LOSERS in suit contracts.	
♥KJ962			Hopefully in a slam there won't be too many.	
♦AQ43			Always try to plan for the worst case	
♣A			scenario.	

In this hand there are 0 spade losers
1 heart loser
1 diamond loser, (the 3 in South's hand will not be a trick)
0 club losers.

Declarer cannot do anything about the Ace of trump. But the small diamond loser can be disposed of in 2 ways. If the spades break 3-3 then the 4th spade in dummy will provide a discard. However, that is not the most likely division of the suit. Or the 4th diamond can be ruffed in dummy. That is a 100% plan. Win the opening lead (surprisingly). Play the King of diamonds. Come to your hand in the safest manner, a club to your singleton Ace. Lead the LOW diamond and trump it in dummy. Your work is done, there are no more diamond losers. Now it's time to pull trump. The difference between beginners and more experienced players is that pulling trump is not always the first thing on their minds. Make a plan!