

# Never Say 'Impossible'!

	<p>♠KQ107 ♥1098 ♦AK5 ♣AT2</p>	Partner		<p>♠AKQ10 ♥1098 ♦AK5 ♣A32</p>	Partner
Hand 1	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             N W     E S           </div>		Both Contracts 6♠ by South	Hand 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             N W     E S           </div>
	<p>♠A9432 ♥AK7 ♦76 ♣KJ4</p>	You	Opening Lead J♦	You	<p>♠9432 ♥AK7 ♦Q76 ♣KQ4</p>

When we sit down to play bridge we get 20+ puzzles to solve. April's "Hand of the Month" is actually 2 similar hands, both with a few cards interchanged. We have shown the East trump cards on hand 2. Can you solve these puzzles and make both slams or is it just impossible for hand 2 with a trump and heart loser and on a guess on which hand to finesse the clubs in hand 1?

Both Contracts are 6♠ by South and both get the J♦ as the opening lead.

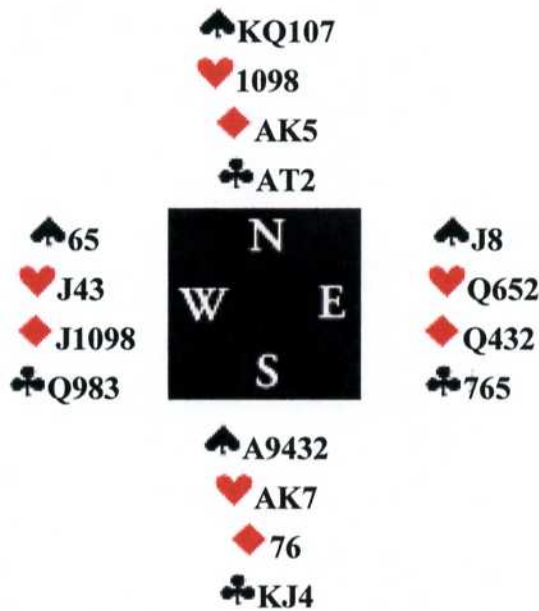
In both hands you win the opening lead with the K♦.

Both hands have a heart loser as there is no place to dump the 3<sup>rd</sup> heart from either hand.

In hand 1 it looks like you have a 50% slam because you have the heart loser and the club suit comes in with the correct finesse for the Q♣. In hand 2 you find out the bad trump break and it looks like a trump loser and a heart loser.

Take a few minutes and see if you can find a way to make both slams and than scroll down for a solution to both hands.

# Hand 1



The first part of our Tip of the Month is "Why give yourself only a 50% chance at Game or Slam when you have a 100% chance"

When we look at Hand 1 we see that we definitely have to lose a heart trick. It looks like the 12<sup>th</sup> trick to make our contract is on a club finesse; but which way? If the opponents led a club for us than we get a free finesse but that does not happen. Let's see how we guarantee this contract.

Step 1: Begin by winning the J♦ lead with our K♦.

Step 2: Draw trumps.

Step 3: Strip our hands of the diamond suit by playing the A♦ and ruffing the 5♦.

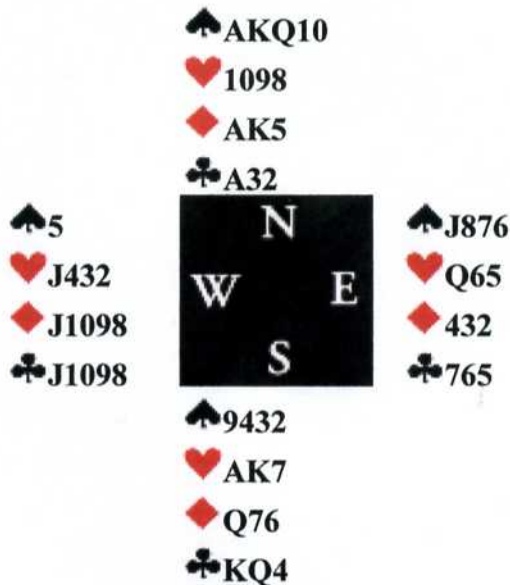
Step 4: We now cash our A♥ and K♥ leaving this position.



Step 5: Throw the opponents in by leading your 7♥. The opponents are out of trumps (♠) and will have to lead a club, diamond, or a heart. The club return gives you that free finesse. A diamond or heart return will allow you to sluff a club in one hand while ruffing in the other.

You just made your failsafe 6♠ contract. A successful **END PLAY**

## Hand 2



Hand 2 is a hand that we cannot guarantee 100%. But we can take that 0% that most declarers will consider this hand to be and turn it into a 20-25% chance.

Step 1: Win the J♦ with our K♦.

Step 2: Begin to draw trump and find out the bad news. The J♠8♠ is sitting behind our Q♠10♠. Looks like a spade loser!!!

Step 3: We give this a lot of thought and see that the only way that we can make this is to throw east in and have him lead a trump for us giving us that free finesse.

Alas, we think of a solution. If east has the same distribution as we have and if east has the Q♥ we stand a chance.

Step 4: Begin the strip process. Play out your 3 clubs, your 3 diamonds and then play your A♥ and K♥ and this is your end position.



Step 5: Play the 7♥ from the South hand after cashing the A♥ and K♥ and East is **END PLAYED** again. He must win the Q♥ and lead a ♠ The Devil's Coup.

Step 6: How can the opponents defend against this Devil's Coup??? East can throw his Q♥ on the K♥ and west will win with his J♥ thus eliminating the End Play.