



Dealer: S		♠	4	Vul: E-W	
		♥	KQJ4		
		♦	42		
		♣	AQJ876		
♠	Q987532	↑ ¹³ ← ⁷ 10→ ↓ ¹⁰		♠	AKT6
♥	---			♥	T852
♦	Q95			♦	K63
♣	K92			♣	T4
		♠	J		
		♥	A9763		
		♦	AJT87		
		♣	53		

PLAY THIS HAND WITH JERRY	Bidding	1♥--2♠
	Sequence→	3♠-4♥--X---4♠ 6♥--P---P---P

This board came up at a time when it felt like we needed a good score to make it into the overalls. My partner opened 1♥, my RHO bid 2♠ and I bid 3♠ hoping my partner could bid something encouraging that would help me get to slam.

My LHO said 4♥ and my partner doubled indicating he wasn't interested in slam and I was sure he felt that way because his ♥ suit wasn't very strong so when West bid 4♠ I guessed to bid 6♥ hoping it would make or that the opponents would sacrifice, but they didn't so here you are. How are you going to make it?

The opening lead was a ♠ to the A and a ♦ switch which you win with the A. At this point you need to see where your winners are. You need the K♣ to be onside so you can score 6♣s, 5♥ and the A♦. If the K♣ is onside you may need to take 2 finesses. Mike Lawrence always says you need to ask yourself, "what can go wrong" and in this case the only other thing that can go wrong is for the ♥s to split 0-4. To protect against that you need to take the first ♣ finesse right now and when it works, cash 3♥ in dummy and come back to you're A♥ to take another ♣ finesse and claim your tricks.

There was another table that got to the same contract and that declarer led a low ♥ to the K (looks OK at first glance) but when they led a low ♥ towards their hand East (an expert from Poland) played the 10♥ forcing the A and now the declarer couldn't get to his hand to take the 2 ♣ finesses and ended up going down.

I consider the play of the 10♥ to be an excellent and thoughtful play because if he hadn't the declarer would have won the 9H and could take the first ♣ finesse and then overtake the 4th ♥ with his A to take the second finesse to make the slam.

Would you have seen this defensive play? Normally we just follow suit when trumps are played.

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