

# Sinking the Titanic

Beating unbeatable contracts takes a lot of imagination. On this deal, one of the greatest players of all time, Alfred Sheinwold, was sitting East, defending against four spades.

<p><b>Board 15</b>          South Deals          N-S Vul</p>		<p>♠ Q 9 7 2          ♥ A Q J 9          ♦ A K J 7          ♣ 5</p>	
<p>♠ A 5          ♥ 10 3          ♦ Q 8 3 2          ♣ J 8 7 3 2</p>		<p>♠ 3          ♥ K 6 4 2          ♦ 10 9 4          ♣ A K Q 10 6</p>	
	<p>♠ K J 10 8 6 4          ♥ 8 7 5          ♦ 6 5          ♣ 9 4</p>		
West	North	East	South
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Sheinwold</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	2 ♠
Lead: ♣ 3			

His partner led a club. Sheinwold won the first trick and had to decide what to do. He might get a trick with the heart king, but his partner was unlikely to hold both the ace and queen of spades, so it looked as though the defense would get at most three tricks. Looking at all four hands, you can see that is the case. Nevertheless, Sheinwold found a way to create an illusion in declarer's mind that resulted in the defeat of the contract. Which suit do you think he led to trick two?

After winning the first club trick, Sheinwold led back the six of hearts at trick two – right into dummy's strength! From declarer's point of view, this looked very much like a singleton, hoping to get a ruff when his partner gained the lead.

West played the ten of hearts to this trick, and declarer won with dummy's jack. Declarer then led a spade which West won with the ace and returned the three of hearts. Not wanting to play the ace and have it ruffed, declarer finessed dummy's queen. Sheinwold won the king and returned a heart which West ruffed.

Down one!