

Dummy Reversal

By Brian Gunnell

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

	♠ A Q J										
	♥ 8 7 5										
	♦ 7 5 3 2										
	♣ Q J 8										
♠ 8 7	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto; text-align: center; font-size: 8px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 4 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A J 10 9		♥ K 6									
♦ A K 8 6		♦ Q J 10 9 4									
♣ 10 9 2		♣ 6 4 3									
	♠ K 10 9 5 3										
	♥ Q 4 3 2										
	♦ —										
	♣ A K 7 5										

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Dbl	Rdbl	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	3 ♦	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

4 ♠ by South
 Lead: ♦ A

North-South stumble into four spades and West leads ace of diamonds. Declarer can count five spade tricks and four clubs. That's nine, where's the tenth? A ruff in the "short hand" is a common ploy for an extra trick, but that won't work here, Dummy has no short side-suits. Any ideas?

Does ruffing the opening diamond lead generate a tenth trick? No, that is a ruff in the long hand, that still leaves us with only five trump tricks. But suppose that declarer ruffs three diamonds. Now he gets six trump tricks via dummy's three high trumps plus three ruffs by declarer (the long hand). In effect, dummy becomes the master hand, the hand which will be used to draw the enemy trumps after declarer has got his ruffs.

Therefore, the sequence of plays is: ruff the diamond lead, cross to the queen of spades, ruff another diamond, cross to the jack of spades, ruff a third diamond, cross to the club queen, draw the remaining enemy trump. This line works whenever trumps are 3-2.

The thing to remember here is that declarer needs three ruffs for the dummy reversal to produce an extra trick. It's that third ruff which reduces declarer's trumps to a shorter length than dummy's. Actually, it would even be possible for declarer to get a fourth ruff, but there are insufficient entries to take advantage of this. So, ten tricks it is.