

Prize Winner

By ACBL

The following deal earned Italy's Giorgio Duboin kudos for the best-played deal of the 5th European Open Championships in Poznan this summer. It occurred during the round-robin qualifying for the Open Teams. See if you could do as well as Duboin did.

<p>Board 14 East Deals None Vul</p>	<p>♠ A 7 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ K 7 6 5 ♣ A J 10 2</p>		
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>		
	<p>♠ K J 4 3 ♥ A K 9 7 ♦ Q ♣ K Q 8 3</p>		
<p><i>West</i></p>	<p><i>North</i></p>	<p><i>East</i></p>	<p><i>South</i></p>
		<p>Pass</p>	<p>1 ♣</p>
<p>Pass</p>	<p>2 ♣</p>	<p>Pass</p>	<p>4 ♣</p>
<p>Pass</p>	<p>4 ♥</p>	<p>Pass</p>	<p>5 ♣</p>
<p>Pass</p>	<p>6 ♣</p>	<p>All pass</p>	
<p>6 ♣ by South Lead: ♦ J</p>			

West leads the ♦J, taken by East with the ace for a low heart return to your ace. What is your plan?

Solution:

It turns out that a trump lead would have been best for the defense, but on the actual lead and continuation, Duboin still had a lot of work to do.

He took the ♥A at trick two, led a trump to dummy's 10, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ♣J, ruffed dummy's last diamond, played a spade to dummy's ace to draw the last trump, pitching a heart from hand. Duboin then pitched another heart on the ♦K, leaving this position, with West still to play:

	<p>♠ 7 ♥ 10 6 ♦ — ♣ 2</p>	
<p>♠ Q 8 6 ♥ Q J ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ 10 9 ♥ 8 ♦ 9 ♣ —</p>
	<p>♠ K J 4 ♥ K ♦ — ♣ —</p>	

What can West do? A heart is no good because declarer will play a heart to his king, returning to dummy with a spade ruff to play the good ♥10. A spade is no better – declarer plays a spade to the king and ruffs a spade, dropping the queen, returning to hand with the ♥K to enjoy the ♠J as his twelfth trick. Very well done for an 11-IMP gain.

The full deal:

