

The Dentist's Coup

By Rich Waugh

Tuesday's and Wednesday's Daily Deals featured the Dentist's Coup: the "extraction" of a safe exit card from an opponent's hand; the removal of a card which would allow an opponent a safe play.

Today's deal is yet another example:

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

	♠ K Q		
	♥ J 10 2		
	♦ K J 9 3		
	♣ A K 9 3		
♠ A J 10 9 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 8 7 6 5 2	
♥ A 9 8 6		♥ 4	
♦ 7		♦ 8 5 4 2	
♣ 8 5 4		♣ Q 7 2	
	♠ 3		
	♥ K Q 7 5 3		
	♦ A Q 10 6		
	♣ J 10 6		

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹	4 ♠	1 ♥
Pass	5 ♥	All pass	Pass

1. limit raise or better

5 ♥ by South
 Lead: ♠ A

West switches to his singleton diamond at trick two and withholds his ♥A when declarer plays two rounds of trumps. If a third trump is played, West wins this and plays a club, putting declarer back on the table with no good continuation. Instead, therefore, declarer cashes the ♣AK. Then, and only then, does he play the third round of hearts. Declarer can now win any return in hand and draw the last trump.