

# Elegant Play

By Rich Waugh

This deal comes from the Women's Pairs at the Fifth European Open Championships in Poznan, Poland, this summer. It features an American star, Janice Seamon-Molson, playing with German champion Sabine Auken

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

♠ 7 4	♠ 9 2		
♥ K J 5 2	♥ A 10 3		♠ J 10 8 6 3
♦ A J 7 2	♦ K 10 5		♥ 9 8 4
♣ 6 5 2	♣ A K 10 8 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W    E S           </div>	♦ 6 3
	♠ A K Q 5		♣ J 9 7
	♥ Q 7 6		
	♦ Q 9 8 4		
	♣ Q 4		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	4 NT	All pass	

Lead: ♣ 2

West leads the ♥2, and you win the ♥8 with your queen. You are playing pairs, so you want to take as many tricks as possible. What is your plan?

Seamon-Molson, South, could have tried to guess the location of the ♦J, but she found a more elegant route to a fine score.

At trick two, she led the ♦4 from hand, playing dummy's king when West followed low. She then played a low club to the queen and another to the ace. When the ♣K showed that clubs were 3-3, she cashed two more rounds of the suit, pitching a heart and two diamonds from her hand. She then played a spade to the ace and cashed the king to reach this position:

♠ —	♠ —		
♥ K J	♥ A 10		♠ J 10 8
♦ A J	♦ 10 5		♥ —
♣ —	♣ —	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W    E S           </div>	♦ 6
	♠ Q 5		♣ —
	♥ 7		
	♦ Q		
	♣ —		

When Seamon-Molson cashed the ♠Q, West was caught in a squeeze without the count. West eventually let go of the ♦J, so Seamon-Molson pitched the ♥10 from dummy and played the ♦Q, setting up the ♦10 for trick number 12 and 76.09% of the matchpoints

The full deal:

