

Take No Chances

When you're playing IMPs and your side is vulnerable, you tend to push when a vulnerable game is in view. If you play them as well as Jovanka Smederevac (Austria), aggressive bidding usually pays off.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 10 6
♥ 8
♦ 10 9 3 2
♣ A K 10 9 3

♠ A 9 5 4 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ A K 8 5
♣ J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♦ J			

The event is the Women's Teams at the 5th European Open Championships in Poznan, Poland, this summer. You receive the opening lead of the ♦J (Rusinow: showing the queen or shortness). How will you come to ten tricks?

Solution:

Smederevac won the diamond lead in hand and played the ♥10, taken by East to return a diamond. Smederevac won that, ruffed a heart in dummy, then cashed the ♣A and the ♣K, pitching her third and last heart. On the third round of clubs, she ruffed low when East produced the queen. She got out of her hand with a diamond (East pitched a heart). West won and played another heart, ruffed by Smederevac.

This was this ending:

♠ Q 10
♥ —
♦ —
♣ 10 9

♠ K
♥ K 9
♦ —
♣ 8

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ —
♦ —
♣ —

♠ A 9 5
♥ —
♦ 8
♣ —

When Smederevac led a low spade from hand, West won perforce and had to select from losing options. She finally played a heart, allowing declarer to ruff with the queen, pitching her diamond and enjoying a trump coup at trick twelve.

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The full deal:

	♠ Q 10 6	
	♥ 8	
	♦ 10 9 3 2	
	♣ A K 10 9 3	
♠ K		♠ J 8 7 3
♥ K 9 7 6 3		♥ A Q J 4
♦ Q J 4		♦ 7 6
♣ 8 7 5 2		♣ Q 6 4
	♠ A 9 5 4 2	
	♥ 10 5 2	
	♦ A K 8 5	
	♣ J	

