

Right Through the Pack

Perhaps the most charming bridge book of all time is *Right Through the Pack*, published back in the late forties. The setting is a bridge club in London, the players go home at the end of the game, and the cards then come to life, all 52 of them eager to tell a delightful tale in which they had excelled. If this deal were in that book then it might well be *the tale of the heart two*. See how that heroic little trump saves the day in four hearts.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

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

♠ A	♠ A	♠ A
♥ A K Q J 3	♥ A	♥ A
♦ A Q 3	♦ A	♦ A
♣ Q J 10 9	♣ A	♣ A

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ J

West leads the ♠J and North tables a rather sad dummy. To make her

contract, declarer must set up some minor suit tricks. But it won't do to draw trumps first and then start establishing minor winners, in that case the defense will keep pounding away in spades, forcing declarer to lose trump control. Well, if drawing trumps won't work then one must do the other thing and not draw trumps. Instead, declarer plays on the minors, leaving dummy's valiant heart two at large to handle the defensive spade onslaught.

Which minor should declarer attack at trick two? There won't be enough tricks from clubs alone because the suit is blocked, so declarer plays the ♦Q at trick two. But East wickedly withholds the king, allowing the queen to hold the trick! Now the diamonds are dead and declarer must play on clubs. She loses a club, ruffs the spade return, and loses another club. The defense can lead another spade if they wish, but to no avail, dummy's heart two is there to take care of that and bring home the contract. So there you have it, a modern-day version of *The Tale of the Heart Two*, with a villainous co-starring role for the diamond king.