

An Unusual Jump

“We ne'er can be
made happy by compulsion.”
– Samuel Taylor Coleridge

In today's deal your partner's jump to five spades is specifically looking for a control in the danger suit, hearts. Had one of you cue-bid hearts to show a control there, a jump to five spades would have asked about trump. Here, with the heart ace, you can simply bid slam if minimum, or cue-bid hearts to suggest first-round control with extras and interest in a grand slam.

On West's lead of a singleton heart, the only real danger is a bad trump break or a very bad diamond break. After winning the heart ace, which trump honors should you play? The answer is that you must cash dummy's spade ace and queen, then after unblocking the diamond honors, you can cross to hand with a club, should trumps not have broken, and lead a low diamond from hand.

If West, the hand long in spades, has three or four diamonds, you simply ruff, come back to hand while drawing the last trump, then run the diamonds and concede trick thirteen. If West has only two diamonds, what can he do? If he discards, you ruff in dummy and make the same twelve tricks as in the previous line. If he ruffs high, you pitch a heart from dummy, then arrange to regain the lead, draw the last trump, and pitch both of dummy's remaining hearts on your two winning diamonds. You can now ruff your last heart in dummy for your twelfth trick.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		2 ♥	Dbl
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
All pass			
Lead: ♥ 2			