

## Pretty Soon it Starts to Add Up

Sometimes it pays to have a good sense of the ridiculous, witness this hand from a recent team game. North-South declined to admit how they reached six notrump, and given the utter awfulness of their final contract, who could possibly blame them?

A spade lead would have worked rather well for the defense but, not unreasonably, West started out with the heart ten. Now let's see how alert defense by East averted an overtrick!

That opening heart lead was won by declarer's ace. Next came the ♦Q and West probably now regrets that he covered this with the king. Dummy's ace won the trick and the clubs were rattled off. West had discarding problems on the run of the clubs and, with the benefit of hindsight we can see that it was ill-advised of West to pitch a couple of hearts, but pitch them he did. Next, the diamond nine was successfully finessed and, with the hearts now good, declarer was up to twelve tricks.

But could he make an overtrick? No, East became the star of the show when, on the last heart, he pitched away his ♠A! Declarer's last two cards were ♦J6 but East had grimly held on to ♦108 and the battle for the thirteenth trick was won by East's diamond ten. So, only +1440 for North-South, thanks to East's heads-up defense.

"For a moment there I thought you would make all the tricks," mused dummy.

"Wasn't possible, East defended too well."

"Well, let's hope our team-mates aren't -1470. An IMP here, an IMP there, Sometimes it pays to have a good sense of the ridiculous, witness this hand from a recent team game. North-South declined to admit how they reached six notrump, and given the utter awfulness of their final contract, who could possibly blame them?"

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**Board 9**  
North Deals  
E-W Vul

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

♠ Q J 4 3 2  
♥ 5  
♦ A 5  
♣ A K Q 5 2

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

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

6 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 10

