

**Double Dummy Live
By Roger Lord**

Dealer: South
Vul: East-West

North
 ♠ Q74
 ♥ KJ9643
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 965

West
 ♠ K10652
 ♥ Q75
 ♦ Q1085
 ♣ 3

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A
 ♦ KJ972
 ♣ KJ10742

South
 ♠ AJ93
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ A43
 ♣ AQ8

South	West	North	East
1 Notrump	Pass	2 Diamonds	2 Notrump
3 Hearts	Pass	4 Hearts	All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts Opening Lead: Club Three

A post-mortem discussion can be interesting and enlightening. A better bidding sequence can be concocted, or a superior play or defense might be revealed. When the winning line is obscure, we often hear the refrain, "That would be double-dummy," meaning that the proposed line would be found only with all 52 cards in view.

Tom Oppenheimer did not require double-dummy analysis on this difficult hand. Playing in a St. Louis Sectional Swiss teams, Tom (South) and his partner Bill Canfield (North) reached four hearts. Over Bill's transfer (two diamonds, promising hearts), East competed with an "unusual notrump" bid, showing length in both minors. Tom's bid of three hearts, a "free raise," prompted Bill to move up to the four heart game.

West led her singleton club, and South's ace took East's king. South let the heart 10 ride, forcing East's ace. Back came the club jack, and South's queen was ruffed by West. West shifted to a diamond, East's king losing to South's ace. Declarer extracted West's trump queen with dummy's king.

At trick six, declarer played dummy's spade four, and East followed with the eight. Could East have held the spade K8 doubleton? Not if you assume that East's two notrump overcall was based on a second suit of five cards to go with his six clubs and one heart, leaving just one spade. Nevertheless, declarer might have chosen to insert his jack, losing to the king, to leave a flexible position, with entries and winners remaining in both hands. However, if you continue the play from there, you will see that it doesn't work.

Counterintuitively, at trick six, Tom led a spade to his ace. Next, Tom played a low spade toward dummy. When West followed low, Tom finessed dummy's seven, which held! Now, the spade queen forced West's king. West exited with a diamond, ruffed in dummy. South used his trump eight as an entry to his spade jack, enabling him to sluff the small club from dummy. The rest of the dummy was good trumps.