

4 Steps to Stardom (Advanced)

By
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Devoted readers will know that *Test Your Deceptive Play* has been a regular feature of Bridge Canada for one year. In commemoration of this anniversary, I have include a famous hand, declared in 4♠:

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

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	4♥	All Pass	

The actual declarer made six! The opponents defended quite reasonably.

1. What was the order of play that the declarer took to achieve this amazing result?
2. What four Deceptive plays did the actual declarer employ?

Solution (with Colour Commentary).

The underlined card is the one led to each respective trick. A card without a suit symbol means the player followed suit, to the suit led.

	W	N	E	S	
Trick 1:	<u>♣6</u>	3	10	A!	Declarer knows from the bidding the 10 is stiff.
Trick 2:	5	6	2	<u>♥J</u>	Trying to encourage a duck, to avoid a ruff.
Trick 3:	A	7	4	<u>♥3</u>	
Trick 4:	<u>♣2</u>	4	♦2	♣9	'Knowing' partner has the ♣J from Trick 1
Trick 5:	6	K	3	<u>♦J</u>	West has either the ♦A or ♠K for the bidding.
Trick 6:	2	<u>♠A!</u>	3	5	East has the ♠K from the last trick and bidding.
Trick 7:	8	<u>♠4</u>	6	♠J	Looking like a man wanting to ruff a spade.
Trick 8:	7	5	♦8	<u>♣K</u>	
Trick 9:	Q	♥8	♦9	<u>♣J</u>	
Trick 10:	10	<u>♠Q</u>	K	♥9	Hoping the ♠8 at trick 7, is from 1087
Trick 11:	♣8	K	♦10	<u>♥10</u>	Yes!
Trick 12:	♦7	<u>♠9</u>	7	♦4	
Trick 13:	♦A	<u>♦5</u>	Q	♥Q	

This hand was played like this in 1954 by Jose Le Dentu, as described in his book Championship Bridge. He says at the time 300 players were polled and only six got all four key gambits right!

These deceptive plays were:

1. Winning the first club with the ace.
2. 'Finessing' for the ♥Q
3. 'Finessing' for the ♦Q by leading the Jack.
4. Eschewing the spade finesse, instead playing ace and another.

How did you do?