

Declarer Play 13 - Getting Those Overtricks

Dealer: E

Vul: Nil

	♠ KJ43	
	♥ K32	
	♦ KQ9	
	♣ KQ8	
♠ 852		♠ 1096
♥ 104		♥ 976
♦ A1064		♦ J852
♣ 7654		♣ A109
	♠ AQ7	
	♥ AQJ85	
	♦ 73	
	♣ J32	

4H by South. West leads the C7, you play low in dummy, East plays the C9 and you win with the CJ. It looks like you're losing the 2 minor suit aces and making 11 tricks. Is there any way you can try to do better?

Getting overtricks in a pairs/duplicate competition is all important. One overtrick can often be the difference between a good score and a poor score. On this hand we appear to have no losers in spades, no losers in the heart trumps, one in diamonds and one in clubs. We can get one discard on the 4th round of spades but this doesn't seem enough.

I would draw trumps and lead a low diamond towards the DKQ hoping West has the ace and ducks. If they do, you can win the DK and throw the last diamond on the 4th round of spades. Making 12 tricks.

This play isn't assured of working. But always remember that your opponents can't see your hand and often don't know what's going on. Give them maximum leeway to make a mistake.