

# Jim's Lessons Week 4 Hand #5 Play of Hand - Having a Chance to Ruff When a Suit Does Not Split 3/3

Source: Puritan Bridge Club Game of Tues Morning May 19, 2015

**Contract: 5 ♦ by South**

**Lead: 2 ♥**

Below are the scores N/S received for this hand at the club game.  
Some pairs were lucking enough to make 10 tricks in notrump.

**Board 27**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

♠ A K 10 2  
 ♥ 6 5 3  
 ♦ Q 8 5 4 2  
 ♣ 9

♠ 9 3  
 ♥ A K 10 9  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ K 10 8 5 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 7 6 5  
 ♥ 8 7 4 2  
 ♦ 10 9 3  
 ♣ Q 7

♠ Q 8 4  
 ♥ Q J  
 ♦ A K J 7  
 ♣ A J 6 3

Contract	Lead	Made	Scores		Matchpoints	
			N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
3 NT S	A♥	4	430		10.00	1.00
3 NT S	A♥	4	430		10.00	1.00
3 NT S	A♥	4	430		10.00	1.00
3 NT S	A♥	3	400		6.00	5.00
3 NT S	A♥	3	400		6.00	5.00
3 NT S	A♥	3	400		6.00	5.00
3 NT S	A♥	3	400		6.00	5.00
5 ♦ N	2♥	5	400		6.00	5.00
3 ♦ N	2♥	4	130		3.00	8.00
2 ♣ x W	2♥	-1	100		2.00	9.00
5 ♦ S	A♥	-1		50	0.50	10.50
4 ♠ N	2♥	-1		50	0.50	10.50

**Makeable Contracts:** NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 5♦; EW 1♣; Par +420

It turns out that 3NT is a makeable contract and several of the N/S pairs made 10 tricks in No Trump. Still if N/S bid and make 5D then they will still get a decent score. Several of the declarer's failed to make 11 tricks in diamonds.

The defenders played the ace/king/10 of hearts. Declarer had to ruff with one of South's trumps.

After having to ruff a heart declarer should not put all of his eggs in one basket (pulling 3 rounds of trump and hoping that spades would be split 3/3. Instead declarer should pull only 2 rounds of trump and then test the spades. If spades are 3/3 or the jack falls when playing the suit, then declarer can just pull the last trump. If spades are not 3/3 and the jack does not fall, then declarer still has the option of trying to ruff the 4<sup>th</sup> spade.

On this hand at least one declarer ruffed 2 losers in the South hand (1 heart and 1 spade) and made 11 tricks.

If the opponent with the 3<sup>rd</sup> trump happens to ruff one of the spade leads declarer was going to lose a spade trick anyway. Nothing really lost anyway! Keeping the extra trump in the dummy allows declarer to make many more hands.