

CHARGE ACCOUNT

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North

S—62

H—965

D—J108653

C—63

South

S—KQ10754

H—A8

D—AK9

C—J8

Both vul., IMPs

West
S—98
H—KQ32
D—42
C—Q10952

East
S—AJ3
H—J1074
D—Q7
C—AK74

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dbl.
Pass	2D	Pass	2S
3C	Pass	Pass	3S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Trick 1: HK, 5, 7, A.
Trick 2: SK, 8, 2, A.
Trick 3: H4, 8, Q, 6.
Trick 4: H2, 9, 10, S4.
Trick 5: CJ, Q, 3, 7.
Trick 6: S9, 6, 3, 10.

Declarer drew the last trump, and then when the queen of diamonds dropped made an overtrick. Who gets the charge?

Steve Evans: "Except at double dummy, West's defense was OK. The only play that could have saved the hand was a club switch at trick 4. East, however, had perfect knowledge to defeat the hand. He should lead the club king at trick 3 and West should give count. If West plays a high club, he should have an even number of clubs (6 given the 3C bid). If West plays a low club, he must have 5 clubs, and East should play K-A of clubs followed by a heart. If West shows 6 clubs, then East should play hearts after the club king. Assuming two more hearts cash, then the defense should revert to clubs. The object is to collect 3 tricks in hearts and clubs and then force declarer to ruff. In doing this the defense will force declarer to play out of his hand so they can garner a second trump trick."

Marshall Miles: "East gets the charge. At trick 5 he can overtake, play the ace and another club and be positive of setting the contract so long as the second club

cash. West, on the other hand, has to guess what to do. If declarer started with KQ10xxxx Ax A KJx, either a trump or diamond return would work out, while in the actual case, only a club lead will work. West can assume that if East has the guarded jack of spades, East will overtake and continue clubs."

"The panel agrees that East is at fault, and I am pleased to make it unanimous. Let us consider what options were available to the defenders. West made an effective opening lead, then later played the third round of hearts. This play was surely correct as declarer could have been 6-4 in the majors. Winning the club queen could not have been wrong. The spade exit at trick 6 is open to question, but as Marshall's example demonstrates, it could have been correct."

East, on the contrary, scarcely played a right card. He knows from West's 3C call that no ruff in dummy can be in view. East should have ducked the spade king at trick 2, and certainly after grabbing it he should have attempted a club-heart cashout as Steve explained so carefully. Finally, even after blowing all of these chances, East could still have saved the day by overtaking the club queen at trick 5. East can see that a third club allows declarer a ruff-sluff, but this means the jack of spades will score the setting trick. East should know the entire deal by that point; his partner can scarcely have any more high cards, and so East must hope that the second club cashes.