

South Deals  
E-W Vul

The Tale of the Four of Hearts

	♠ A 10 7 2		
	♥ J 5		
	♦ K J 8 7 2		
	♣ 10 7		
♠ 8 6 5	□	♠ K Q 9 4 3	
♥ K 10 6 3		♥ 4 2	
♦ Q 5		♦ 10 6 4	
♣ Q 6 4 3		♣ A 9 5	
	♠ J		
	♥ A Q 9 8 7		
	♦ A 9 3		
	♣ K J 8 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Gary</i>	
			1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	All pass	
2 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♠ 5			

My story comes from a matchpoint pairs event (where overtricks can be everything), in Bethesda, MD. North and South both had maximum hands for their bidding to the normal 2 ♥ contract. Pete produced the ♠5 (low from an odd number), and dummy appeared. How frustrating for me, the best trump in Gary's hand: I could not even overruff dummy's five, should it come to that!

The lead was won by the ♠A in dummy, as Gary encouraged with the ♠3 (upside down). Declarer ran dummy's ♣10 to Pete's queen, and the ♠8 was led, ruffed by declarer with the ♥7.

Declarer led the ♣J, won by the ♣A, and Gary led my companion, the ♥2; declarer rose with the ♥A, Pete following with the ♥6. Declarer cashed the ♣K, and ruffed his last club with the ♥J, while Gary discarded a diamond. Declarer now ruffed the third round of spades with the ♥8, cashed the ♦A, and then the ♦K. Here was the layout, with the lead in dummy:

	♠ 10	♦ J 8	
♥ K 10 3			♠ Q 9    ♥ 4
	♥ Q 9	♦ 9	

Declarer chose the wrong play, the ♦J from dummy, and Gary pounced: he played *me*, the ♥4! Pete undertruffed the ♥3, letting me win the trick. This let Gary lead next, producing all three of these tricks for the defense. With all those cards and the ♦Q in the slot, declarer was held to making only two, a fine result. Double dummy, *four* hearts can be made.

- Pete Matthews