

BREAKING GROUND 61

♠ A J 9 6 4	<i>S</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>
♥ A 6	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♠
♦ 7 6 4 2	—	—	3 ♣	—
♣ 9 3	3 ♥	—	4 ♥	All pass

North has bid two suits and then given delayed support to his partner. He will not have more than one spade, therefore. Dummy's shape could be 1-3-5-4, in which case there is not much hope, but it is rather more likely to be 1-2-5-5. In the latter case the best method of attack is obvious once you think of it. You can extract dummy's trumps while retaining control by the simple expedient of underleading your ace of hearts.

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

Declarer will eye your six of hearts with little enthusiasm, for he will be unable to make more than nine tricks.

♠ K 8 7 2	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>
♥ 5	2 ♥	2 NT
♦ A 7 6 3	3 ♦	3 ♠
♣ K 9 6 4	4 ♦	4 ♥

There is clearly no point in surrendering a tempo by leading trumps here. Declarer is unlikely to need to ruff diamonds in dummy. But your partner could have four trumps, in which case you may be able to shorten declarer's trumps to the point of embarrassment by forcing him with club leads. You must play for partner to have some strength in clubs and, since South will be short in the suit, you should lead the king.