

Bridge Christmas puzzle card 2014

The 2014 Bridge Christmas card puzzle is adapted from Andrew Robson's "Bridge Lessons – Declaring Trump Contracts" (page 28).

			S	W	N	E
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 5px;">♠</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; background-color: #ADD8E6; display: flex; flex-direction: column; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">♥</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">♦</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">♣</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">K</div> </div> </div>	<p>♠ 8 6 4 2 ♥ A 7 4 2 ♦ K Q T ♣ J 4</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 5px;">♠</div> <div style="margin-right: 5px;">♥</div> <div style="margin-right: 5px;">♦</div> <div style="margin-right: 5px;">♣</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; background-color: #ADD8E6; display: flex; flex-direction: column; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">K</div> </div> </div>	<p>♠ A Q ♥ 6 ♦ A J 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q 5 2</p>	<p>1♦ P 3♣ P 4NT(1) P 7♦ P</p>	<p>1♥ P 4♦ P 5♠(2) P P P</p>	<p>(1) Roman KeyCard Blackwood (2) 2 of "4 aces & K trumps" and Q trumps. W leads ♥K.</p> <p>Plan your play to make all 13 tricks.</p>

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Look at declarer's hand and work out (potential) losers.

○ Declarer (or dummy) winner

♠ 8 6 4 2 ♥ A 7 4 2 ♦ K Q T ♣ J 4

♠ A Q ♥ 6 ♦ A J 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q 5 2

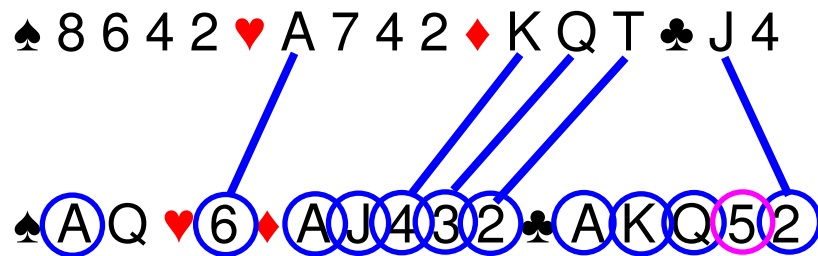
If we draw trumps and assume clubs split fairly evenly (13 - 7 = 6, split 3-3 or 4-2) then we make all the clubs. ○

The ♠Q is the big problem.

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♥	P
3♣	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
7♦	P	P	P

W leads ♥K.

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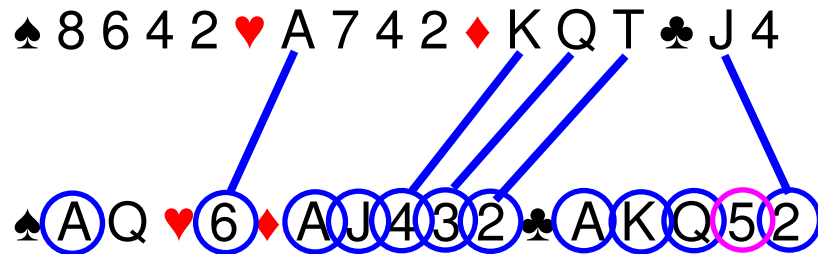
Obviously we can lead a spade from dummy and finesse. If the ♠K is in the E hand then the ♠Q makes. But if it is in W, it fails.

This is 50:50. Can we do better?

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♥	P
3♣	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
7♦	P	P	P

W leads ♥K.

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The finesse is 50:50. Can we do better?

Yes: make a sixth trump trick and discard the ♠Q on it.

Do this by making dummy's ♦KQT (which draws trumps) and also trump 3 little hearts with 3 of declarer's ♦.

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♥	P
3♣	P	4♦	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
7♦	P	P	P

W leads ♥K.

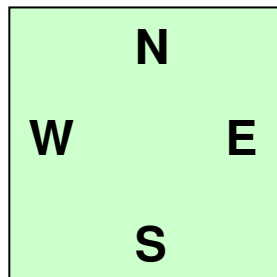
This relies on the 8 opposition hearts being split (ie not 0:8). But that is 99% likely.

We also need a 3:2 diamond split (to draw trumps) and a 4:2 or better club split (for a length club winner).

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♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ A 7 4 2
♦ K Q T
♣ J 4

♠ K T 5
♥ K Q T
♦ 8 6 5
♣ 9 8 6 3



♠ A Q
♥ 6
♦ A J 4 3 2
♣ A K Q 5 2

♠ J 9 7 3
♥ J 9 8 5 3
♦ 9 7
♣ T 7

1 W: ♥K ♥A making S void
2 N: ♥2 .. ♦2 .. Trumping low
3 S: ♦3 .. ♦T .. Drawing 2 trumps
4 N: ♥4 .. ♦J .. Trumping high
if the ♦J is needed, split is bad.
5 S: ♦4 .. ♦Q .. Drawing 2 trumps
leaving only 1 out
6 N: ♥7 .. ♦A .. S's last trump
7 S: ♣2 .. ♣J .. J is a master
requires no 0:6 club split with last trump in 0 hand
8 N: ♦K .. ♠Q ♦8 Draw last trump
and discard ♠Q
9,10,11,12,13 : Win ♠A ♣AKQ5
13 tricks made.

Note: an opening lead of ♦8 would have defeated the contract.