

6-5 Come Alive

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Level: Intermediate to Advanced

This deal was played in the 2016 South-eastern Regional in Florida . East held:

Q9853	83	Q95	AJ3.
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In a knockout match with both sides vulnerable, his partner dealt and opened 4H. This was followed by two passes and 5H by LHO! What's that? Presumably spades and a minor--a high-level Michaels bid. RHO bid

5NT (pick a minor) and LHO chose 6C . With spades and clubs well controlled combined with partner's vulnerable 4-level opening, East chose to double.

The K was led and East saw:

J2	
642	
J642	
Q842	
	Q9853
	83
	Q95
	AJ3

Declarer won the A and cashed the A (partner playing low). Next came a low club, partner throwing a heart. Dummy plays the queen and it is up to you.

Suppose you win the heart A. What next?

From the bidding and play, you know everyone's cards. Declarer must have 5 spades and 6 clubs and the two singleton aces in the red suits. Since we are now "double-dummy" let's look at all 4 hands.

Vul:Both	J2	
Dir: West	642	

	J642 Q842	
4 KQJ10975 K10873 --		Q9853 83 Q95 AJ3
	AK1076 A A K109765	

Did you figure out to return the club J? If you play a low club, declarer has a marked finesse and can win in dummy with the club 8.

He would have only 2 trumps left in dummy, but could make his contract by running the spade J for a finesse. He would then have to ruff only 2 spades in dummy. Would he play this way? Maybe. The 4 ♥ opening (combined with the trump return) could point the way.

Why give him the chance? If you return the *jack* of clubs, he has to win in his hand. Then he can take the ace-king of spades and trump two spades in dummy, but will have to lose a spade trick at the end.

The club J is a sure thing (to set the contract), but maybe you are wondering why you have to play any trump? Look what happens if you play anything else. If you lead from the Q, declarer can finesse. If you lead a red suit, he trumps in his hand, cashes the high spades and has a complete crossruff for 12 tricks.

At the other table, South didn't come alive with his 6-5. He overcalled 4 Spades and went down 3 tricks for -300.