

Bridge

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After a week or so of a lovely Indian summer, it has predictably turned freezing cold again. In bridge, we sometimes refer to a 'frozen suit', meaning that it can't be touched by either side without the loss of a trick. In these situations we need the opposition to play the suit for us.

Normally, there are no half measures: either a suit is frozen or it's not, but on the following hand, played in the London Super League, declarer could still play the suit to his advantage in an unusual way.

Dealer South

All vulnerable

♠ 9 6 3
♥ Q10 8 4 2
♦ A J 4
♣ Q 4

♠ 10
♥ A 7 3
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ K 10 7 6 5



♠ J 8 4
♥ K J 9 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ A 9 2

♠ A K Q 7 5 2
♥ 6
♦ 9 5 3
♣ J 8 3

West	North	East	South
			2♠
Pass	3♠	pass	pass
Pass			

West led a Club, East won with the Ace and returned a trump. Declarer won and opened up communications by playing a Heart to the ten and Jack, East returning another trump. South now played a Club to West, who clearly couldn't touch the 'frozen' Diamond suit, so instead tried the Ace of Hearts, ruffed by South.

The defence had been annoyingly accurate so far. Declarer can discard one of dummy's Diamonds on his good Club, but as soon as he gives up a Diamond, East will take the King and play his last trump, killing any ruffs in dummy. But South found a way to keep East off lead — he played the ♦9 from hand.

West is forced to cover, or the second trick in the suit will disappear, and when the ♦10 is played South played low from dummy! East can't afford to overtake this, and with West on lead there's no way of stopping South getting his Diamond ruff in dummy after all. So, the contract was cold after the lead? Not quite. When West is in with the ♣K, he can play another Club. Declarer has to discard a Diamond from dummy, and the avoidance play in the suit is gone.

Brrr!