

Board 15
 West Deals
 E-W Vul

Bad Split -- Problem

♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ A J 10 7 6
 ♣ Q 2



♠ K 4
 ♥ J 9 5 4 3
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ K 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	Db1 ¹	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	3♥

All pass

1. Support double (exactly three hearts)
 2. Big hand
- 3♥ by South

[deal rotated for convenience]

Join me for an ACBL matchpoint pairs game on BBO.

My 2♥ bid did not guarantee a fifth heart. Would you jump to 4♥ on my broken suit? 3NT does not look attractive, either - especially after dummy comes down. No matter, we are in 3♥.

West leads the ♦ 9, jack, queen, four. Back comes the ♣ 10, three, ace, two. Hoping East can ruff, West continues ♣ 4, queen, eight, five. Welcome to dummy.

Hoping to ruff my losing club on dummy, I continued ♠ 9, three, king, ace. West obliged by leading the ♣ 7, ♥ A, ♠ 7, ♣ 6. Time to draw trump. ♥ K, two, three, seven. ♥ Q, six, four, ♠ 2. Oops!

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Bad Split -- Continued

♠ Q 10
 ♥ —
 ♦ A 10 7 6
 ♣ —



♠ 4
 ♥ J 9 5
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
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All pass

1. Support double (exactly three hearts)
 2. Big hand
- 3♥ by South

Trick	Lead	2nd	3rd	4th
1. W	♦ 9	J	<u>Q</u>	4
2. E	♣ 10	3	<u>A</u>	2
3. W	♣ 4	<u>Q</u>	8	5
4. N	♠ 9	3	K	<u>A</u>
5. W	♣ 7	<u>♥ A</u>	♠ 7	6
6. N	<u>♥ K</u>	2	3	7
7. N	<u>♥ Q</u>	6	4	♠ 2

How would you proceed?

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Bad Split -- Continued

♠ Q 10
♥ —
♦ 10 7
♣ —

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 4
♥ J 9
♦ —
♣ K

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
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5. W	♣ 7	<u>♥ A</u>	♠ 7	6
6. N	<u>♥ K</u>	2	3	7
7. N	<u>♥ Q</u>	6	4	♠ 2
8. N	<u>♦ A</u>	3	2	5
9. N	♦ 6	K	<u>♥ 5</u>	8

The point is to try to avoid losing a trump by executing a *trump coup*. Play the ♦ A, and ruff a diamond in hand, reducing our trump length to the same as East's. Continue.

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Bad Split -- Solution

♠ Q 10
♥ —
♦ 10 7
♣ —

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 5
♥ —
♦ —
♣ J 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 8
♥ 10 8
♦ —
♣ —

♠ 4
♥ J 9
♦ —
♣ K

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	Db1 ¹	Pass	2♥
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All pass

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5. W	♣ 7	<u>♥ A</u>	♠ 7	6
6. N	<u>♥ K</u>	2	3	7
7. N	<u>♥ Q</u>	6	4	♠ 2
8. N	<u>♦ A</u>	3	2	5
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Made 4 — NS +170

Good news! The diamonds split, and they are good. We need that, because we cannot cash our club winner, which East would ruff.

Lead to the ♠ Q on dummy. When East cannot ruff, East is out of chances. Play the ♦ 10. If East ruffs, overruff, draw the outstanding trump, and the ♣ K wins the last trick.

East can postpone the inevitable by discarding on the ♦ 10, but we counter by discarding the ♣ K. Lead either card from dummy and cover the trump that East must play.

3♥ making four (+170), losing only one trick in each side suit, was worth 67.5% on the board.