

“Birdman of Alcatraz” Challenge The Deciding Play

It’s the final board of an important Team Championship & your team and your current opponents are “neck and neck.”

You are declarer and realise that if you make this contract your team will almost certainly win the competition.

You are in 4 hearts as West. A spade is led. What is your best line of play to make ten tricks?

♠ Axx.

♠ xxx

♥KQJT9

♥Axx

♦AQ.

♦Jxx

♣AKx.

♣xxxx

The author considers this to be “not a difficult problem, one that is intended for intermediate players.

In this scenario, you are allowed only a generous 20 minutes.

All answers – on a postcard to – Prisoner 484917,
High Security Unit,
Slade Prison,
Carlisle.

Otherwise, I’ll post the answer online this evening, if Mr. McKay allows.
(He’s also a Glaswegian.)