

## Declarer Play in No Trumps

| <p>           ♠ AKQ<br/>           ♥ K65<br/>           ♦ 642<br/>           ♣ 8543<br/>           ♠ 72<br/>           ♥ J874<br/>           ♦ J10953<br/>           ♣ KQ<br/>           ♠ 654<br/>           ♥ AQ2<br/>           ♦ AK<br/>           ♣ 109762<br/>           ♠ J10983<br/>           ♥ 1093<br/>           ♦ Q87<br/>           ♣ AJ         </p> | <p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>East leads ♠J. Declarer takes stock. He has eight top tricks (3 spades, 3 hearts and 2 diamonds). He needs at least one extra trick, from clubs by force. The opponents have four top clubs but provided declarer has time to force them out he will have at least one extra trick. Declarer must focus single-mindedly on the club suit and not cash any winners in other suits until later.</p> <p>Declarer wins the club lead and at trick 2 he leads a low club. The defenders win, with both East and West following suit so all their clubs have gone. They persevere with spades, but North wins and cashes three club winners, making 11 tricks.</p> | West     | North    | East | South |      | 1NT      | Pass     | 3NT      |
|---|--|----------|----------|------|-------|------|----------|----------|----------|
| West  | North  | East     | South    |      |       |      |          |          |          |
|   | 1NT  | Pass     | 3NT      |      |       |      |          |          |          |
| <p>           ♠ 432<br/>           ♥ J1084<br/>           ♦ Q108<br/>           ♣ 843<br/>           ♠ AK<br/>           ♥ Q32<br/>           ♦ A742<br/>           ♣ 10965<br/>           ♠ 8765<br/>           ♥ AK7<br/>           ♦ K65<br/>           ♣ QJ7<br/>           ♠ QJ109<br/>           ♥ 965<br/>           ♦ J93<br/>           ♣ AK2         </p> | <p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South leads ♠Q. Declarer takes stock. He has seven top tricks (2 spades, 3 hearts and 2 diamonds) requires two extra tricks from clubs by forcing out the opponents ♣AK. He plays ♣Q at trick 2, won by South's ♣A. South persists with ♠J. Declarer wins and plays back another club. At this stage it is perfectly possible that spades break 5-2 and South could win ♣K and cash three more spades, but declarer is relieved when spades break the more likely 4-3.</p>   | West     | North    | East | South | 3NT  | All Pass | 1NT      | Pass     |
| West  | North  | East     | South    |      |       |      |          |          |          |
| 3NT   | All Pass   | 1NT      | Pass     |      |       |      |          |          |          |
| <p>           ♠ AK<br/>           ♥ 932<br/>           ♦ AQJ2<br/>           ♣ 10965<br/>           ♠ QJ1062<br/>           ♥ Q65<br/>           ♦ 94<br/>           ♣ AK2<br/>           ♠ 43<br/>           ♥ J1084<br/>           ♦ 10873<br/>           ♣ 843<br/>           ♠ 9875<br/>           ♥ AK7<br/>           ♦ K65<br/>           ♣ QJ7         </p> | <p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West leads ♠Q. Declarer takes stock. He has 8 top tricks (2 spades, 2 hearts and 4 diamonds), and requires one extra trick for his contract. This will come from clubs once the opponents' ♣AK have been forced out, so he plays ♣Q at trick 2, won by West's ♣A. West persists with ♠6. Declarer has no option but to keep going with clubs. He is out of luck when West wins ♣K and cashes three spade tricks for one off.</p>  | West     | North    | East | South | Pass | 3NT      | All Pass | 1NT      |
| West  | North  | East     | South    |      |       |      |          |          |          |
| Pass  | 3NT  | All Pass | 1NT      |      |       |      |          |          |          |
| <p>           ♠ Q10753<br/>           ♥ K2<br/>           ♦ 107<br/>           ♣ Q987<br/>           ♠ K86<br/>           ♥ A863<br/>           ♦ 64<br/>           ♣ AK32<br/>           ♠ A42<br/>           ♥ J4<br/>           ♦ AKQ32<br/>           ♣ 654<br/>           ♠ J9<br/>           ♥ Q10975<br/>           ♦ J985<br/>           ♣ J10         </p> | <p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North leads ♠3. Declarer takes stock. He has 8 top tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and two clubs). He needs one more trick. The easiest way to make this contract is to win the trick with ♠K in hand and turn to diamonds for the ninth trick, making a length trick if the six outstanding diamonds split 4-2, and two length tricks if they split the less likely 3-3. Declarer cashes ♦A K Q and concedes a</p>   | West     | North    | East | South | 1NT  | Pass     | 3NT      | All Pass |
| West  | North  | East     | South    |      |       |      |          |          |          |
| 1NT   | Pass   | 3NT      | All Pass |      |       |      |          |          |          |

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|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>diamond when the suit fails to break 3-3. ♦3 is now a winner, and declarer has an entry to it with ♠A.</p> |
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| <p>           ♠ K86<br/>           ♥ A863<br/>           ♦ 64<br/>           ♣ AK32<br/>           ♠ J9                      ♠ Q10753<br/>           ♥ Q10975                ♥ K2<br/>           ♦ 85                      ♦ Q1097<br/>           ♣ J1087                 ♣ Q9<br/>           ♠ A42<br/>           ♥ J4<br/>           ♦ AKJ32<br/>           ♣ 654         </p>                             | <p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>East leads ♠5. Declarer takes stock. He has 8 top tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and two clubs). He needs two more tricks. Declarer should hope for two more tricks from diamonds, one by finessing the ♦J and at least one by length if the missing diamonds split no worse than 4-2. At trick 2 he successfully finesses ♦J. Now he cashes ♦A K and concedes a diamond when the suit fails to break 3-3. ♦3 is now a winner, and declarer has an entry to it with ♠A.</p> | West       | North            | East | South |     | 1NT      | Pass       | 3NT              |
|--|---|------------|------------------|------|-------|-----|----------|------------|------------------|
| West   | North   | East       | South            |      |       |     |          |            |                  |
|  | 1NT   | Pass       | 3NT              |      |       |     |          |            |                  |
| <p>           ♠ J9<br/>           ♥ QJ1093<br/>           ♦ 98<br/>           ♣ J1087<br/>           ♠ A42                      ♠ K86<br/>           ♥ 74                        ♥ A86<br/>           ♦ AQJ32                 ♦ 654<br/>           ♣ 654                      ♣ AK32<br/>           ♠ Q10753<br/>           ♥ K52<br/>           ♦ K107<br/>           ♣ Q9         </p>                     | <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT<br/>3NT</td> <td>Pass<br/>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South leads ♠5 to North's ♠J and East's ♠K. Declarer takes stock. He has 6 top tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond and 2 clubs). He needs three more diamond tricks (four in all). He successfully finesses ♦J at trick 2. He next returns to his hand with ♣A and takes a second finesse, the ♦Q. With diamonds breaking 3-2 declarer can make five diamond tricks, and ten tricks in total.</p>   | West       | North            | East | South | 2NT | Pass     | 1NT<br>3NT | Pass<br>All Pass |
| West   | North   | East       | South            |      |       |     |          |            |                  |
| 2NT  | Pass  | 1NT<br>3NT | Pass<br>All Pass |      |       |     |          |            |                  |
| <p>           ♠ 843<br/>           ♥ A7<br/>           ♦                      7632<br/>           ♣ K432<br/>           ♠ 975                      ♠ QJ102<br/>           ♥ K8                        ♥ QJ1054<br/>           ♦ Q10854                ♦ J9<br/>           ♣ AJ9                      ♣ Q10<br/>           ♠ AK6<br/>           ♥ 9632<br/>           ♦ AK<br/>           ♣ 8765         </p> | <p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>West leads ♦5. Declarer takes stock. He has 5 top tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, and 2 diamonds). Declarer will need quite a bit of luck: he requires two club tricks. At trick 2 he leads ♣5, dummy's ♣K winning the trick when West (rightly) plays low. Next declarer plays a low club from each hand. Whatever the defenders return, declarer will soon win the lead and drive out the last club, eventually winning with the ♣8 when the suit breaks 3-2.</p>                           | West       | North            | East | South |     |          |            | 1NT              |
| West   | North   | East       | South            |      |       |     |          |            |                  |
|  |   |            | 1NT              |      |       |     |          |            |                  |
| <p>           ♠ 53<br/>           ♥ J8742<br/>           ♦ J85<br/>           ♣ K65<br/>           ♠ 876                      ♠ AQ4<br/>           ♥ AQ3                      ♥ K65<br/>           ♦ AK2                      ♦ 763<br/>           ♣ J1097                 ♣ 8432<br/>           ♠ KJ1092<br/>           ♥ 109<br/>           ♦ Q1094<br/>           ♣ AQ         </p>                       | <p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North leads ♥4. Declarer has six obvious tricks: ♠A, ♥A K Q and ♦A K. There are two possible sources of a seventh trick: a successful spade finesse or patiently playing on clubs. A finesse is a 50% shot: the clubs offer a 100% chance provided the defenders cannot cash too many winners first. With good stoppers in the other tricks declarer should attack clubs whenever he gets the lead.</p>   | West       | North            | East | South | 1NT | All Pass |            |                  |
| West   | North   | East       | South            |      |       |     |          |            |                  |
| 1NT  | All Pass  |            |                  |      |       |     |          |            |                  |

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| <p>           ♠ AK<br/>           ♥ AQ7<br/>           ♦ 9432<br/>           ♣ 5432<br/>           ♠ 9765                  ♠ Q10843<br/>           ♥ K1084                ♥ J92<br/>           ♦ AK75                 ♦ 86<br/>           ♣ 9                        ♣ 1076<br/>           ♠ J2<br/>           ♥ 653<br/>           ♦ QJ10<br/>           ♣ AKQJ8         </p>   | <p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>East leads ♠4. Declarer has eight obvious tricks. There are two possible sources of a ninth trick: a successful heart finesse or patiently playing on diamonds. A finesse is a 50% shot: the diamonds offer a 100% chance provided the defenders cannot cash too many winners first. Unfortunately, the opening lead has found the spade weakness: declarer has only one spade stopper left and if he relied on diamonds he would have to drive out ♦A and ♦K. If declarer relies on diamonds he will lose three spade tricks and ♦A K. Therefore he will have to rely on the heart finesse.</p> | West | North    | East | South |      | 1NT      | Pass | 3NT  |          |      |     |          |
|--|---|------|----------|------|-------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|-----|----------|
| West   | North   | East | South    |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
|  | 1NT   | Pass | 3NT      |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| <p>           ♠ 9765<br/>           ♥ J1084<br/>           ♦ A1075<br/>           ♣ 9<br/>           ♠ J2                      ♠ AK<br/>           ♥ 653                    ♥ AQ7<br/>           ♦ KQJ                   ♦ 9432<br/>           ♣ AKQJ8                ♣ 5432<br/>           ♠ Q10843<br/>           ♥ K92<br/>           ♦ 86<br/>           ♣ 1076         </p> | <p>Board 10 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South leads ♠4. Declarer has eight obvious tricks. There are two possible sources of a ninth trick: a successful heart finesse or patiently playing on diamonds. A finesse is a 50% shot: the diamonds offer a 100% chance provided the defenders cannot cash too many winners first. The spade lead has found declarer's weakness, but he still has a spade stopper so he can afford to drive out ♦A, making ten tricks.</p>   | West | North    | East | South | 3NT  | All Pass | 1NT  | Pass |          |      |     |          |
| West   | North   | East | South    |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| 3NT  | All Pass  | 1NT  | Pass     |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| <p>           ♠ QJ5<br/>           ♥ 84<br/>           ♦ K65<br/>           ♣ 97652<br/>           ♠ A98                    ♠ K104<br/>           ♥ KQJ1093            ♥ 2<br/>           ♦ 32                     ♦ QJ10987<br/>           ♣ 104                    ♣ J83<br/>           ♠ 7632<br/>           ♥ A765<br/>           ♦ A4<br/>           ♣ AKQ         </p>     | <p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East leads ♦Q. Declarer takes stock. He has 8 top tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and two clubs) so needs five club tricks. He must wintrick 1 with ♦A, preserving his ♦K as an entry to the clubs. Now he cashes ♣A K Q. When clubs break 3-2 his ♣9 7 are winners because there are no clubs left.</p>  | West | North    | East | South | Pass | 1NT      | Pass | 1♥   | All Pass |      |     | 2NT      |
| West   | North   | East | South    |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| Pass   | 1NT   | Pass | 1♥       |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| All Pass   |   |      | 2NT      |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| <p>           ♠ KQ104<br/>           ♥ 72<br/>           ♦ QJ10987<br/>           ♣ 2<br/>           ♠ A763                   ♠ J52<br/>           ♥ A865                 ♥ K4<br/>           ♦ AK4                   ♦ 652<br/>           ♣ Q5                     ♣ KJ1076<br/>           ♠ 98<br/>           ♥ QJ1093<br/>           ♦ 3<br/>           ♣ A9843         </p>  | <p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South leads ♥Q. Declarer takes stock. He has 5 top tricks (1 spade, 2 hearts, and 2 diamonds) so needs four tricks from clubs. He wins trick 1 with ♥A, preserving his ♦K as an entry to the clubs. Now he starts with ♣Q, the high card from the shorter holding. If South allows ♣Q to win, declarer continues with ♣5 to dummy's ♣K. All he needs is a 4-2 break, but this time good play is not rewarded because the missing clubs break 5-1. Hard luck: one down.</p>   | West | North    | East | South | 1♥   | Pass     | 1NT  | Pass | 2NT      | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |
| West   | North   | East | South    |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| 1♥   | Pass  | 1NT  | Pass     |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |
| 2NT  | Pass  | 3NT  | All Pass |      |       |      |          |      |      |          |      |     |          |

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| <p>           ♠ 732<br/>           ♥ A54<br/>           ♦ AQ3<br/>           ♣ KQ43<br/>           ♠ QJ10                  ♠ 984<br/>           ♥ 873                    ♥ KQJ109<br/>           ♦ 109754                ♦ J8<br/>           ♣ A9                      ♣ 876<br/>           ♠ AK65<br/>           ♥ 62<br/>           ♦ K62<br/>           ♣ J1052         </p>   | <p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East leads ♥K. Declarer takes stock. He has 6 top tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, and 3 diamonds). Declarer should withhold his ♥A (duck) for the first two rounds on the suit, winning the third round and exhausting West of heart, so that if East has the ♣A he will not be able to lead a heart to East's winners. Declarer wins ♥A at trick 3 and plays a club. West wins but has no heart to return, so declarer makes nine tricks. Declarer would also have succeeded if hearts had broken 4-4 but ducking catered for the more likely 5-3 split.</p> | West     | North | East | South |  | 1♣ | Pass | 1♠   | Pass | 1NT  | Pass | 3NT  | All Pass |          |          |  |
|---|---|----------|-------|------|-------|--|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| West  | North   | East     | South |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
|   | 1♣  | Pass     | 1♠    |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| Pass  | 1NT   | Pass     | 3NT   |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| All Pass  |   |          |       |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| <p>           ♠ QJ10<br/>           ♥ 873<br/>           ♦ 109754<br/>           ♣ 98<br/>           ♠ AK65                  ♠ 732<br/>           ♥ 62                      ♥ A54<br/>           ♦ K62                    ♦ AQ3<br/>           ♣ J1052                  ♣ KQ43<br/>           ♠ 984<br/>           ♥ KQJ109<br/>           ♦ J8<br/>           ♣ A76         </p> | <p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South leads ♥K. Declarer should withhold his ♥A for the first two rounds on the suit. He wins ♥A at trick 3 and plays a club. Unfortunately South wins ♣A and cashes two more heart tricks to defeat the contract. Unlucky.</p>   | West     | North | East | South |  |    | 1♣   | Pass | 1♠   | Pass | 1NT  | Pass | 3NT      | All Pass |          |  |
| West  | North   | East     | South |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
|   |   | 1♣       | Pass  |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| 1♠  | Pass  | 1NT      | Pass  |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| 3NT   | All Pass  |          |       |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| <p>           ♠ A<br/>           ♥ 864<br/>           ♦ AK8432<br/>           ♣ 765<br/>           ♠ Q10542                ♠ J983<br/>           ♥ 75                      ♥ Q10932<br/>           ♦ QJ5                    ♦ 109<br/>           ♣ KQJ                    ♣ 109<br/>           ♠ K76<br/>           ♥ AKJ<br/>           ♦ 76<br/>           ♣ A8432         </p> | <p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West leads ♠4, won by dummy's ♠A. Declarer takes stock. He has 7 top tricks (2 spades, 2 heart, 2 diamonds and 1 club). Declarer needs at least two more diamond tricks by length (four in all): the suit will have to break 3-2. However, if he cashes ♦A K and then concedes a diamond then there is no entry to dummy so he can never cash his diamonds. Correct play is to duck a diamond at trick 2 ("Lose to Win"). He then regains the lead and cashes five diamond tricks.</p>  | West     | North | East | South |  |    |      | 1♣   | Pass | 1♦   | Pass | 1NT  | Pass     | 3NT      | All Pass |  |
| West  | North   | East     | South |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
|   |   |          | 1♣    |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| Pass  | 1♦  | Pass     | 1NT   |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |
| Pass  | 3NT   | All Pass |       |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |          |  |

## Declarer Play in No Trumps

| <p>♠ J9542<br/>♥ Q107<br/>♦ QJ10<br/>♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ KQ6                      ♠ A<br/>♥ AKJ                        ♥ 8642<br/>♦ 765                         ♦ A8432<br/>♣ A843                       ♣ 765</p> <p>♠ 10873<br/>♥ 953<br/>♦ K9<br/>♣ Q1092</p> | <p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North leads ♠4, won by dummy's ♠A. Declarer takes stock. He has 7 top tricks (3 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 1 club). Declarer should aim for two more diamond tricks by length (three in all): the suit will have to break 3-2. However, if he cashes ♦A and then concedes a diamond there is no entry to dummy so he can never cash his diamonds.</p> <p>Correct play is to duck a diamond at trick 2, The defenders continue with spades: declarer wins and ducks another diamond. He finally regains the lead with his third spade stopper and cashes three diamond tricks.</p> <p>How about the heart finesse? It is a bit of a red herring. Declarer doesn't need it to make nine tricks and if he greedily takes it he should be defeated.</p> | West | North    | East | South | 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |
|--|--|------|----------|------|-------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|-----|----------|
| West   | North  | East | South    |      |       |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |
| 1♣   | Pass   | 1♦   | Pass     |      |       |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |
| 2NT  | Pass   | 3NT  | All Pass |      |       |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |