

Patience does the Job:

20	♠ A973 ♥ QT5 ♦ A94 ♣ KJ6	<i>Dir: W</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>																														
♠ J ♥ 9863 ♦ 876 ♣ QT852	♠ Q862 ♥ AKJ74 ♦ 3 ♣ 974	♠ KT54 ♥ 2 ♦ KQJT52 ♣ A3																														
14 3 13 10		<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♠</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♣</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♠	♦	♥	♣	NT	N	3	-	3	3	2	S	2	-	3	3	2	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-
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This hand was played on June 16 and has something for both declarer and the defence.

Bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1C	1D	Double
Pass	1S	2D	3S
Pass	4S	Pass	Pass

West led the KD which North won and played AS and one to the QS, East ducking and West discarding a club of the type to indicate she had nothing much to offer in that suit.

North continued with a heart to the QH and another heart towards dummy.

How does East defend this board?

Thoughts

East's lead of the KD was good because it allowed her the chance to gain control of trumps by forcing in her strong diamond suit. The lead of a singleton heart would be inferior because it is unlikely West held the AH on the bidding and also it is better for East to hold on to her long trumps rather than shorten them with a ruff.

East can see 2 x trump tricks and, hopefully, the AC. Can the contract be defeated? If she ruffs the second or third heart, draws a round of trumps and leads another diamond, North can ruff in dummy and play on hearts and then take the club finesse to make her contract.

Because East has the AC, her best chance is to keep her powder dry, have the patience of Job and allow North to cash all five heart tricks. Providing North does not have 4 x diamonds and 2 x clubs, she cannot discard all her clubs and when a club is led from dummy East will win, draw two rounds of trumps and cash a diamond trick for one down.