

Juxta-Posers

<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ A2 ♥ K76 ♦ AQJ84 ♣ K95</p> <p>♠ JT84 ♥ QJT32 ♦ 9 ♣ J76</p> <p>17 5 10 8</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: NS</i></p> <p>♠ K763 ♥ A85 ♦ KT72 ♣ T3</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>	♠	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	4	3	-	-	2	S	3	2	-	-	2	E	-	-	1	2	-	W	-	-	1	1	-	<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ KQJ43 ♥ T932 ♦ 6 ♣ KT7</p> <p>♠ AT5 ♥ A6 ♦ J743 ♣ A854</p> <p>9 13 14 4</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><i>Dir: S</i> <i>Vul: EW</i></p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ KQ75 ♦ AK52 ♣ Q96</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	3	2	3	W	4	4	3	2	3
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These two conjoined boards were played on June 25th. The computer says that 3NT can be beaten on Board 2 and 3NT can be made on Board 3.

With North playing 3NT on B2, put yourself in the position of the defence and work out how to beat the contract despite the all-seeing declarer's best efforts. East has to lead her small heart to give the defence a chance. West wins with the 10H and plays the QH. Declarer ducks twice.

As West playing 3NT on B3 you receive the KS lead and you duck. North continues with the QS and JS and you win the third round. How do you play the hand to make 9 tricks?

Thoughts:

B2: After winning the QH West must now switch to a spade. If declarer ducks, East wins the KS, plays AH and exits with a club while awaiting her diamond trick. If declarer wins the AS and plays five rounds of clubs before finessing the diamonds, East must come down to Kx in spades, AH and Kx in diamonds. North cannot throw East in with a heart because there are no more in dummy but, rather than take the diamond finesse, could lead a small spade in the hope you have come down to KS alone. West needs to keep Jx in spades so that she can jump up with the JS if a small one is led off dummy.

B3: This is another squeeze play against North in hearts and clubs if she wants to hang on to her two last winning spades. As West, declarer, you play AD and KD and then lead one towards your JD.

To retain her two remaining spades North discards a club on the KD but must discard another club, baring the KC or a heart on the third round of diamonds.

Let us assume South wins the QD and North discards a heart. South now leads a club which West wins with the AC, cashes the JD and runs out 4 rounds of hearts to make her contract. If North discards a second club West goes up with the AC, dropping North's KC. If North, reluctantly, discards a spade on the third round of diamonds, West can win the AC and lead her JD. If North discards her last spade, West can lead towards the QC for her ninth trick.