

Disable the Dummy

♠ KT	Dir: E Vul: ALL
♥ 874	
♦ JT654	
♣ K86	
	♠ AQ8
	♥ 62
	♦ AK3
	♣ J9742

Bidding:

East	South	West	North
1C	1H	Pass	2H
Pass	3D*	Pass	4H
Passed out			

*Trial bid asking partner to bid 4H if she has a strong raise or can help in diamonds.

You are East. Your partner leads the 3C. Declarer wins your JC with the AC and draws trumps using the top three hearts in three rounds before leading the 9D. How do you plan your defence?

Thoughts:

You have three certain tricks. Based on her trial bid, declarer's diamond suit should be three or more, almost certainly including the QD. Partner has led a small club lead suggesting she holds 3 or 4 clubs including an honour. With only 2 x diamonds and 2 x clubs, declarer would have 4 x spades and would be expected to bid spades as a second suit. As it happens, a spade lead at the outset or even an unlikely diamond lead would most likely have set the contract one or more tricks immediately but what to do now?

The situation isn't any different to NT contracts where the defence hopes to cut declarer off from a long suit in dummy by knocking out dummy's entries and holding up the Ace in the long suit if they hold it until declarer's cards in that long suit are exhausted. If declarer has three rather than four diamonds you have a chance to defeat this contract.

The first step is to win the diamond. Now you really have no other sensible option than to lead a club and, based on your partner's small club lead, this is likely to knock out the KC in dummy. Declarer has to win the KC and will continue with another round of diamonds but as long as you

duck once, win the third round and lead another club, declarer will be locked out of dummy and will be forced to concede two spade tricks.

The Board was played on Thursday August 13.

BOARD 26					
BD: 26	♠ KT ♥ 874 ♦ JT654 ♣ K86				Dir: E
					Vul: ALL
♠ 97642					♠ AQ8
♥ JT5					♥ 62
♦ 87					♦ AK3
♣ QT3					♣ J9742
♠ J53 ♥ AKQ93 ♦ Q92 ♣ A5					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	4	2	-	2
S	-	3	2	-	2
E	1	-	-	1	-
W	1	-	-	1	-
					7
				3	14
					16