

PLAYING THE KILLER 1NT CONTRACT

Take a look at the bidding on this hand:

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">8</div>	N North ♠ K10 ♥ J1062 ♦ AJ1086 ♣ J7	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%; border-right: 1px solid black;">W</td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border-right: 1px solid black;">N</td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border-right: 1px solid black;">E</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">P</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">P</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">P</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">1NT</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">P</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;"></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	P	1♠	P	1NT	P	P	P			
W	N	E	S															
P	P	P	1♠															
P	1NT	P	P															
P																		
W West ♠ Q2 ♥ Q98 ♦ 32 ♣ KQ10863	E East ♠ AJ86 ♥ 543 ♦ Q9754 ♣ 5																	
	S South ♠ 97543 ♥ AK7 ♦ K ♣ A942	1NT N NS: 0 EW: 0																

This hand was played by one of my students on Bridge Base Online (BBO) sitting in South. North, her partner, and opponents were all computer robots, so when I say her robot partner went set by 2 tricks, I'm not disparaging her. Although I can understand her passing 1NT, I would have rebid 2♣ to show my second suit. Perhaps they would have reached a heart part score contract.

Can you see how this 1NT contract can be made with any overtick? The lead by East was the ♦5.

North has 5 top tricks. The extra tricks can come from heart or diamonds or spades.. The problem with this plan is that there is a lack of entries to declarer's hand. After the diamonds or hearts get set up its very hard to get back to the North hand to enjoy them.

The way I would approach this is win the ♦K and attack hearts by leading the ♥AK from the dummy. The third heart will be won by West and he will probably switch to the ♣K. You win this with the ♣A and lead a spade up to your hand. Maybe you can set up the spades for the extra tricks. If West plays low, you insert the ♠10, won by East's ♠J. The best he can do is plays the ♠A, capturing your ♠K as well as his partner's ♠Q. Now East will have to either lead a spade to the dummy's ♠9 or a diamond, away from his ♦Q. Either lead will give you an extra trick or two. Say he leads a diamond. You win in hand and take the the ♦A, the good ♥J, and put East back in with another diamond. Now he will have to lead the spade to dummy's ♠9, or a diamond to your good ♦10.

This was a awful lot of work for 120 points in duplicate play. It would have been easier and more fruitful to play in hearts. Notice that 3♥ is cold.

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/py8jat2> . Or, copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the “Next” button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on “Play” you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.