

## ♠♥♦♣ WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY ENEMY ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer and open 1♦. The opponents don't enter the bidding and you eventually reach 3NT.

N	North
♠	AK1094
♥	Q82
♦	Q2
♣	1063

West leads ♥6

S	South
♠	Q6
♥	J93
♦	AJ76
♣	AQ75

	West	North	East	South
				1♦
	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

You play low from the dummy, East plays the ♥10, and you are allowed to win the trick with your ♥J. What are your thoughts about taking your 9 tricks?

If the spades break 3-3 (36%), you can take 5 spades. You can always promote a second diamond trick and you will collect 5 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 1 club. But what if spades are 4-2 or worse – and you don't find that out until the 3<sup>rd</sup> top spade? Then you will go down. You need the spades for transportation.

You have only 6 top tricks, given the lead. If you play the minor suits yourself, you will have to finesse several times and that might not bring the necessary 3 tricks. This is a hard problem to solve. Many times when you have a dilemma like this, it is wise to let the opponents help you. Let them lead the suits that are too dangerous for you to lead. We see this with endplays, but it also applies to the phases of play as well.

The winning line is to lead a heart to dummy's ♥Q, at trick 2! East will win his ♥K and say he shifts to a low diamond. You put up dummy's ♦Q, which holds the trick. Now what?

Since putting West on lead with the heart lead worked so well, last time; do it again. Lead the ♥Q from the dummy. West will win his ♥A and take his last heart, but now will shift to the ♣J. East plays low and you win the ♣Q. Now comes the key play of a low spade to dummy's ♠10. This is won by East's ♠J. You can win any card East returns and lead the ♠Q from your hand, overtaking with the ♠K. Now you have 4 winning spades and can lead your last club to the ♣A in your hand for 9 tricks.

This is the full deal:

11 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ AK1094 ♥ Q82 ♦ Q2 ♣ 1063	P 1♣ P 1NT P 3NT P P P
W West		E East
♠ 85 ♥ AK76 ♦ K10953 ♣ J2		♠ J732 ♥ 1054 ♦ 84 ♣ K984
	S South	
	♠ Q6 ♥ J93 ♦ AJ76 ♣ AQ75	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y7af3bxz> , 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.