

♠♥♦♣ ONE LAST TRY ♠♥♦♣

East deals and passes. This is your hand:

| | |
|---|---------|
| S | South |
| ♠ | AK87 |
| ♥ | J5 |
| ♦ | KJ10953 |
| ♣ | A |

Your hand has 16 HCP, and a Quality Diamond suit. You open 1♦. West overcalls 2♣ and partner passes. Not a good sign!

East advances with 2♦. This cue bid is a limit raise of her partner's Clubs. It's back to you.

The question is whether to pass and hope to set 3♣; pass and rebid 3♦ when it comes back to you; reverse with a 2♠ rebid; or simply rebid your Diamonds – 3♦.

You have the right shape for a reverse – longer Diamonds than Spades. But your hand is a touch too weak. It should have at least 17 HCP.

Your chances of setting 3♣ is small. You only have 3 tricks outside of Diamonds; and that suit is likely to be ruffed by the Declarer before it can be set up to take tricks.

Passing and coming back on the next round is dangerous because the opponents might find their Heart fit.

I favor a direct rebid of 3♦. Here's why:

- You have 6 Diamonds and a semi self-sufficient suit. That is, it can serve as trump even facing a singleton in partner's hand.
- Your Losing Trick Count is 5. That means you only need 1 "cover" card from partner to take 9 tricks.
- You might be able to push them to 4♣ which stands a better chance of being beaten.

Even going down 1 trick gives you a slightly better score than the opponents making 3♣. You have a balanced hand with 16 HCP. Naturally, you open 1NT. Your partner asks about any 4-card Major you might have with a Stayman 2♣. After your negative rebid, he invites with 2NT.

Although you have 16 HCP, your hand is actually more like 18 points. You have a 5-card suit with 3 honors. Your partner has one or two 4-card Majors to help you out. You accept the invitation and rebid 3NT.

| N | North |
|---|--------|
| ♠ | 6 |
| ♥ | 987632 |
| ♦ | 76 |
| ♣ | 7654 |

West Leads: ♣K

| S | South |
|---|---------|
| ♠ | AK87 |
| ♥ | J5 |
| ♦ | KJ10953 |
| ♣ | A |

West leads the ♣K and you see that beautiful dummy! Not one single point – not even a 10. But at least partner holds 2 Diamonds.

It's important to keep a positive attitude and not to show the opponents your displeasure - "Thank you, partner"

You have 2 Spade and 2 Heart losers. In addition, you have 1 or 2 Diamond losers. You can eliminate the Spade losers if you hold up drawing trump, and use Dummy's two little Diamonds to ruff the two Spades. If this works, you can afford 2 losers in the trump suit.

Win the opening Club lead and cash the ♠A. Don't cash the K♠. Rather, ruff a low Spade. Come back to your hand by ruffing a Club and use dummy's last trump to ruff your second losing Spade.

Now lead a Heart to your hand, losing to West. West will probably lead another Spade, hoping his partner can ruff. No such luck. Your ♠K wins that trick.

Now you can lead out the Diamonds from your hand, giving up two Diamonds to the ♦A and ♦Q. You have to lose another Heart, but you take 9 tricks in all.

Incidentally, North did provide two "cover" cards by virtue of his singleton Spade.
 This is the entire deal:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 14 ^D | N North | W N E S |
| | ♠ 6 ♥ 987632 ♦ 76 ♣ 7654 | P P P P 2♣ P 2♦ 3♦ P P P |
| W West | | E East |
| ♠ Q532 ♥ A10 ♦ Q4 ♣ KQ1092 | | ♠ J1094 ♥ KQ4 ♦ A82 ♣ J83 |
| | S South | |
| | ♠ AK87 ♥ J5 ♦ KJ10953 ♣ A | 3♦ S NS: 0 EW: 0 |

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2yj83qjq>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.