

Bridge play problems (1)

1.

♠ 8 3 2
♥ 10 9 5 3
♦ 9 7 3
♣ A K 9

Lead: ♠J

Contract: 3NT South

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K Q
♥ A Q
♦ A K 6 2
♣ 7 5 3 2

Playing pairs with a favourite partner you pick up the South hand. You reach 3NT but when dummy goes down you see that although you have 29 points between you, only 8 top tricks on show. The opening lead buys you some time but where do you look for your ninth?

2.

♠ K Q 3
♥ A Q J 5
♦ 2
♣ Q J 10 9 4

Lead: ♥6

Contract: 3NT by South

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 2
♥ 3
♦ A K Q J 7 5 3
♣ 7 2

Playing pairs with a regular Partner against (previous boards seem to suggest) a strong pair, you open a 'gambling' 3NT as South and play there. On the ♥6 Partner tables a more than satisfactory dummy. Partner won't be happy if you blow this one so what is your line of play to give you the best chance?

3.

♠ Q 5 4 3
♥ A 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ 7 6

Lead: ♦6

Contract: 6♦ South

N
W E
 S

♠ A K 9 8
♥ K 8 3
♦ A K J 7 4 2
♣

Playing teams scoring and playing with a regular partner you bid to a small slam in diamonds. You have done well to bid your slam but you notice that 13 tricks are probably available in spades. You fear you may lose imps. Don't get yourself side-tracked, you are playing in diamonds not spades and (clue) something good may happen to ensure you a good score – so focus on making the slam in hand.

4.

♠ A 6 4 3
♥ J 6
♦ J 2
♣ K 6 5 3 2

Lead: ♠K

Contract: 3NT by South

N
W E
 S

♠ J 5	S	W	N	E
♥ A K 7 5	1NT	2♠	2NT	P
♦ A 10 4	3NT			
♣ A Q 9 8				

You find yourself playing with an 'unknown' Partner and agree to play a strong no-trump. Luckily Partner provides you with a spade stopper and – clubs behaving – you count 9 tricks in your 3NT. Problem - what problem? Plan the play.

5.

♠ 5

♥ A 6 5 2

♦ A Q 9 7 4

♣ K J 6

Lead: ♠J



Contract:
3NT South

♠ A Q

♥ K 8 3

♦ J 10 2

♣ Q 7 5 4 2

E	S	W	N
1♠	P	P	Dbl
P	2NT	P	3NT

You brush aside East's opening bid and end in what seems to be in a good contract. A winning diamond finesse should see you home. But do you really expect it to succeed? East needs all the other points to justify his opening bid. Can you turn this to your advantage?

6.

♠ A 6 4

♥ J 9 2

♦ Q 8 2

♣ Q J 7 4

Lead: ♠2



Contract:
1NT by South

♠ K 7 5

♥ Q 7 5

♦ J 7 4

♣ A K 9 8

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	P

Playing teams against reasonable opponents you open 1NT and everyone passes. West leads the ♠2. Despite a combined 23 points you only have 6 top tricks. Where to look for a seventh. (Should you decide to duck the opening lead East will win with the ♠10 and return the ♠J.)