Double Dummy 1

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

	♠ A K ♥ 8 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ K J 3 2 ♣ A	
♠ — ♥ — ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	N W E S	♠ Q J 10 9 8 ♥ Q J 10 9 7 ♦ 7 6 ♣ Q
	♠ 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ A K ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ K	

3 NT

South plays the hand in 3 NT. There are 9 tricks off the top. But can you make 10, that is the Double Dummy problem for a top? West leads the 10♦.

1. South must not take this trick. He must sacrifice a diamond at trick 1. So he plays low from both hands.
2. West switches to the J♣. South wins with North's A♣, and then wins the next trick with dummy's J♦. He then plays the 3 ♦ from dummy at trick 4.
3. (a) If East discards a spade, South plays on spades, winning the trick with Q♦
   (b) He then plays the A and King of spades from dummy.
   (c) Declarers returns to his hand with A♦, overtaking dummy's K♦.
   (d) South then loses a spade to East and wins the next trick with the A♥ .
   (e) Declarer then loses a further spade to East's Q♠. South's hand is know high with the last two spades, K♥.
4. (a) At trick 4, when declarer plays the 3 ♦, if East on the other hand discards a heart, South wins with the A♦, and plays on hearts.
   (b) He plays the A and King of hearts from hand.
   (c) At the next trick declarer plays a diamond and wins in dummy with the King, overtaking his Q♦.
   (d) Declarer plays a small heart from dummy which East wins.
   (e) East returns the Q♠, and South wins this with North's A♠.
   (f) Declarer loses another heart from dummy.
   (g) Declarer wins the next spade with North's K♠ and wins the last two tricks with dummy's 8 and 6 hearts.

In each case declarer makes 10 tricks - 1 club, 3 diamonds, and either 2 hearts and 4 spades, or 2 spades and four hearts, with East/West winning 3 tricks - one club and either 2 hearts or two spades. Well played South!

By the way there is an even better contract played by South. Have you spotted it?