

17/01/2022 Hand of the Week 85: More ducking plays

Hand 1:

<div>10 D</div>		N Erika Pick ♠ AJ64 ♥ 943 ♦ Q32 ♣ J98	<table> <tr> <th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td>P</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>2NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>P</td><td></td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	3NT	P	2NT	P		P	P
W	N	E	S												
P	3NT	P	2NT												
P		P	P												
W bal94	♥5		E hxmarie												
	S med029 ♠ KQ8 ♥ QJ10 ♦ AKJ98 ♣ K5	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0													

East wins the A♥ and switches to a club

This should be a straightforward 3NT- you have 9 tricks in diamonds and spades when you get in. The problem is you have 2 heart losers so cannot afford to lose 3 clubs- so how should you play the suit?

If you go up with the K♣ West might win the A♣, and then lead another club through the J9 towards East's Q10

See what happens if you duck the first club trick?

West might win with A♣ establishing your K♣. Alternatively, West might hold Q♣-the K♣ would then fall under the A♣ but that establishes the J♣ so you only lose 2 club tricks

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W	N	E	S												
P	3NT	P	2NT												
P		P	P												
W bal94 ♠ 92 ♥ K852 ♦ 1054 ♣ A432			E hxmarie ♠ 10753 ♥ A76 ♦ 76 ♣ Q1076												
	S med029 ♠ KQ8 ♥ QJ10 ♦ AKJ98 ♣ K5	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0													

Hand 2:

Now a harder one in defence!

19 D	N Erika Pick		W N E S			
	♠ AQJ9863 ♥ K8653 ♦ Q ♣		P 2♥ P 1NT P 4♠ P 2♠ P P			
	♣ 5		E HXJuliaC			
W hxkeithwri			♠ 2 ♥ A97 ♦ K10875 ♣ A1074			
	S med029					
			4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0			

Defending 4♠ partner leads a club into dummy's void. Declarer ruffs, then plays 3 rounds of trumps- partner shows 3 spades and declarer 2- before switching to a 3♥- what should you play?

Obviously it is an article on ducking so playing the A♥ might not be the best option! There should be no risk in ducking a round- South opened 1NT so will have at least 3 hearts. You can see 23 points and declarer has at least 12, so partner has 5 at most. Can we make any other tricks?

Declarer has not attacked diamonds suggesting partner holds the J♦ so we could win a trick there

What about hearts? Declarer has played a low heart- it seems likely that they hold the Q♥ and are hoping you give them a trick by going up with the A♥. If declarer also holds the J♥ then we can only win 1 trick, but if partner has the J10♥ then the K♥ will be finessed on the second round of the suit.

19 D	N Erika Pick		W N E S			
	♠ AQJ9863 ♥ K8653 ♦ Q ♣		P 2♥ P 1NT P 4♠ P 2♠ P P			
			E HXJuliaC			
W hxkeithwri			♠ 2 ♥ A97 ♦ K10875 ♣ A1074			
	S med029					
	♠ K4 ♥ Q42 ♦ A632 ♣ KJ92		4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0			

