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

Hand 1:



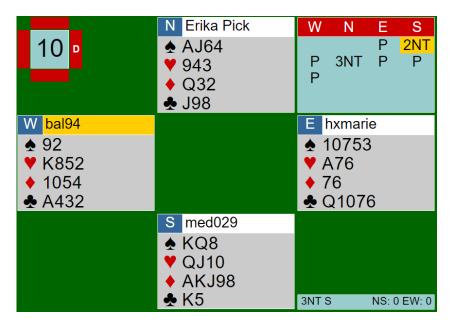
East wins the A♥ and switches to a club

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 Easts Q10

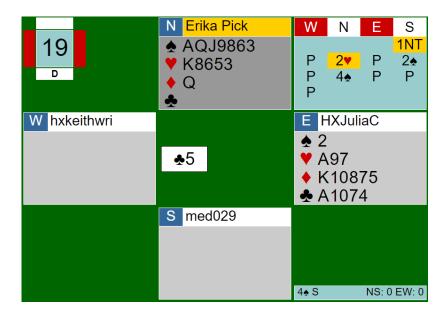
See what happens if you duck the first club trick?

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



Hand 2:

Now a harder one in defence!

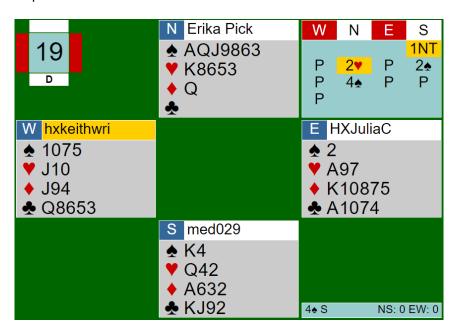


Defending 4♠ partner leads a club into dummy's void. Declarer ruffs, then plays 3 rounds of trumps-partner shows 3 spades and declarer 2- before switching to a 3♥- what should you play?

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.



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