

Teaser No. 45

North

♠ 5 2

♥ A K

♦ A K Q 10 9 6

♣ 7 4 3

East

♠ A 9 4

♥ 8 7 6 5

♦ 8 3

♣ K Q J 2

Game All, Dealer: North

Contract: 3NT by South

Lead: Q♠

North opened 1♦, South bid 1NT and North jumped to game.

You are sitting East - Plan the defence – it's a teams' match.

Solution Teaser No. 45

Win with the ace and switch to the TWO of clubs.

The sight of dummy makes it crystal clear that your side needs to win the first five tricks. That means playing partner for the ace of clubs. The natural looking play of the king would block the run of the suit if partner holds a doubleton ace. Yes, they could overtake and lead one back, but declarer's last card would become established.

Note that a four-card holding in the South hand is quite likely in view of the bidding.

Switching to the low club is definitely the correct play at teams. At pairs it is probably right too as it will only gift an extra trick if declarer holds both the ace and ten. Even then you might escape unscathed: give declarer A1085 (for instance) and they must guess to play the ten. Not easy!

South held: ♠K63, ♥QJ10, ♦J72, ♣10985