

Board 2	♠ K94		
Dealer E	♥ K10		
NS Vul	♦ AQ8		
	♣ AKQ94	♠ A86	
♠ 107532		♥ A85	
♥ J43		♦ 942	
♦ 76		♣ 10832	
♣ 765	♠ QJ		
	♥ Q9762		
	♦ KJ1053		
	♣ J		
		NT	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
		N	11 9 11 11 11
		S	11 9 11 11 11
		E	2 4 2 1 1
		W	2 4 2 1 1
Par +660 3NT+2 NS			

Missing 2 aces with no 8 card major fit. Would everyone play 3NT?

In fact 10 pairs played game in NT (one was in 4NT).

2 pairs overbid to slam, 1 was in the precarious contract of 5♥ and 1 was in 3♣.

I want to focus on the 7 declarers who played 3NT from North on a club lead.

This really should be a simple hand if you just do a little counting at Trick 1.

You can count 5 diamond tricks for sure.

Probably 5 club tricks, particularly as at most table it was a 4th highest 2♣.

There are 2 aces to lose, but it would be nice if we could make 12 tricks.

We have 10 tricks. The easiest place to get 2 more is SPADES. Our shortest suit!

You should win the J♣ and immediately play the Q♠.

If that holds the trick you will play the J♠ as well.

Only a very clever East would figure out they have to cash the A♥ now.

A very difficult thing to do looking at ♥ Q9762 in dummy.

If not you cross to the A♦, cash 4 clubs and K♠ discarding all of the hearts.

Then you produce the Q♦ and point to all the winning diamonds – 12 tricks.

So what did the 7 declarers who got club leads do?

3 played hearts where only 1 extra trick can be immediately established.

Even if the K♥ had scored a trick a spade could not be safely played.

The defence might take A♠ and play through the Q♥ if the AJ♥ were in West.

3 declarers played on diamonds. No, no, no, no!

You don't want to show the defenders the tricks that are already set up.

And besides, the diamonds are needed to keep your entries fluid.

One almost got it right by playing the Q♠, but then they played a heart next.

That could have worked, but East cashed A♠, maybe easier than cashing A♥.

+660 was worth 13/26. +690 was worth 24/26. An extra 1.76% on the session.