

Board 8		♠ AQ854		
Dealer W		♥ 86		
None Vul		♦ 3		
	♠ J107	♣ J7652	♠ 932	
	♥ AK932		♥ J75	
	♦ K84		♦ J1097	
	♣ Q3		♣ 1084	
		♠ K6		
		♥ Q104		
		♦ AQ652		
		♣ AK9		
				NT ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
				N 11 11 8 9 11
				S 11 11 8 9 11
				E 1 0 4 4 0
				W 1 0 4 4 0
Par +460 3NT+2 NS				

There was a brutal ending on Board 8 if West led a small heart against 3NT. It is a very reasonable lead to make, but look what happens.... The 6 is played from dummy, East plays the Jack and South wins the Queen. South takes the next 5 tricks in clubs and then 5 more in spades. Didn't those suits lie well for declarer?

After the last spade North has just the 8 of Hearts and 3 of Diamonds left. The last two cards in the South hand are the Ace and Queen of Diamonds.

Which two cards should West keep?

If they keep just the K8 of Diamonds the 8 of Hearts in dummy is a winner. If they keep the AH and KD then the King of Diamonds falls under the Ace.

There was nothing that West could do about it after they led a small heart.

Curiously East could have prevented it by not playing the Jack at trick 1.

If they still had the Jack then at the end West could throw the top hearts.

Third hand high is the absolutely normal play.

Playing low at trick one is not something even an expert could find.

It would be necessary to play the jack in a lot of other situations.

Bridge can sometimes be a brutal game