

<b>Board 5</b>	♠ J843		
<b>Dealer N</b>	♥ 106		
<b>NS Vul</b>	♦ 10942		
	♣ J64	♠ Q102	
	♠ 5	♥ KQ4	
	♥ A87	♦ Q873	
	♦ AK65	♣ Q93	
	♣ A8752	♠ AK976	
		♥ J9532	
		♦ J	
		♣ K10	
			NT ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
			N 3 8 5 3 3
			S 3 8 5 3 3
			E 8 5 8 10 10
			W 8 5 8 10 10
Par -130 3♦+1 EW			

Several declarers missed a chance to make 3NT and I suspect they did not notice.

They probably looked in the bottom corner and said:

“The computer can’t make 9 tricks either”

At two tables the lead was a small spade to the Jack and Queen.

At two other tables the lead was the A♠ and then a small spade to the Jack.

None of those 4 declarers made their contract, but they probably could have.

South had either opened 1♠ or overcalled 2♠ over a weak 1NT.

In either case, with so few points missing declarer will guess South has K♣.

On a small spade to the Jack declarer wins and starts on diamonds.

Only 3 diamond tricks, mean you appear a trick short.

However cashing 3 diamonds and then 3 hearts leaves the following position.

♠	--	♠	102
♥	--	♥	--
♦	6	♦	8
♣	A8752	♣	Q93

Declarer saw South had 1 diamond. They discarded on the second round.

They also know South had 5 hearts. North discarded on the third round.

Declarer can guess South is 5-5-1-2. What 6 cards should South keep?

Most people will keep something like ♠AK9 ♥J ♣K10.

If they have then when East exits with the ♠10 South is endplayed.

They have to lead away from their ♣K and declarer’s ninth trick is the ♣Q.

To defeat the contract South has to throw the ♠9 to keep ♠AK7 ♥J ♣K10.

If they have then they can lead the ♠7 to North’s ♠8 to escape the endplay.

That would be a very hard defence to find indeed!