

3nt [easy]

from *Planning the Play in Notrump*

Krystyna Gasińska

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14	♠	T 4	♥	A 7 4	♦	A K 3	♣	Q J T 6 4
							N	
			W					E
							S	
14	♠	K 6	♥	K Q J 4	♦	J 8 5 4	♣	A 9 3

West leads 7♠ against 3NT, East wins with the ace and returns 3♠.

After winning the second trick we can see two chances of taking 9 tricks: finesse in clubs and doubleton Q♦ – if it drops we can use our J♦ to win the 9th trick. Since the doubleton is a safe chance we should try it first. If it does not drop we can still try to finesse. If it does (16% chance) there is no need to put our contract in danger and finesse. Of course we would play differently in matchpoints.

The complete hand:

14	♠	T 4	♥	A 7 4	♦	A K 3	♣	Q J T 6 4
							N	
8	♠	Q J 8 7 2	♥	T 6 2	♦	Q 7	♣	K 8 2
			W					E
							S	
4	♠	A 9 5 3	♥	9 8 5	♦	T 9 6 2	♣	7 5
14	♠	K 6	♥	K Q J 4	♦	J 8 5 4	♣	A 9 3