

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 5 3
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ Q 9 7
♣ A T 5

♠ A K 6

♥ A

♦ A K J 5 3 2

♣ Q J 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ Q J T 9 7 2
♥ 9 7 4
♦ 8
♣ K 9 3

♠ 4
♥ K Q J T 3
♦ T 6 4
♣ 8 7 6 4

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

3 NT by North

Baker Entries 17

North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♠Q.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=0 Total = 5

There they are, four perfectly good ♥ tricks and no straightforward way to reach them. On the other hand, (I should say "In the other hand"), you have the possibility of 6 ♦ tricks, if the ♦ Q drops, in which case you won't need the ♥ tricks at all. Can you work those two possibilities into a strategy?

Sure. The ♦ problem is that the outstanding ♦s may split 3-1 with one defender holding ♦ Q x x. So it would appear you could only get 5 ♦ winners. But you can thwart him like this.

Win the ♠. Unblock the ♥A. Now play the ♦J. If Mr. ♦ Q x x takes this trick dummy's ♦T will become an entry to those wonderful ♥s. But if he cleverly refuses to win the ♦Q, then it will fall under your ♦A K and you will get all 6 ♦ tricks.

Maybe after the hand is over he will appreciate it more and congratulate you.

Board 2

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K
♥ A K 7 5 3
♦ A K Q 6
♣ K T 5

♠ A 6 2

♥ Q J 9 4

♦ T 3

♣ 9 7 6 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ 8 7 5 4
♥ T 8
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ Q 8 4

♠ Q J T 9 3
♥ 6 2
♦ 8 5 4
♣ A J 3

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

3NT by East

pass it to South. If South takes the ♣Q then you will have TWO entries to your hand, one to get there for a ♠ lead, and the other to reach the ♠ winners after you have driven out the ♠A. But if South DOESN'T take the ♣Q, or if North actually has it, then you will have 3 ♣ tricks and your contract.

Baker Entries 18
East is to play 3NT. South leads the ♦2.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 8

The reason the Winners list shows 1 ♠ is that the defenders are going to have to let you win dummy's ♠K. If they take that then you'll have 4 ♠ winners in your hand!

So you only need one more winner really, and if you guess the ♣ finesse right you will have it. Which way will you finesse, and why?

You will finesse through North. If he has the ♣Q you will win all 3 ♣ tricks, but if South has the ♣Q you may win even more. Just watch.

Win the opening ♦ lead in dummy. Play the ♠K which the defenders are not about to take while you have a ♣ entry to your hand. Now play the ♣T and

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

| |
|-------------|
| ♠ T 9 8 5 2 |
| ♥ 9 7 5 2 |
| ♦ J 4 |
| ♣ K 5 |

| |
|-------------|
| ♠ Q 6 |
| ♥ A Q J 8 4 |
| ♦ 7 5 3 |
| ♣ 6 4 2 |

| |
|---|
| N |
| W |
| E |
| S |

| |
|-----------|
| ♠ J 7 4 3 |
| ♥ 6 |
| ♦ Q T 9 2 |
| ♣ Q 8 7 3 |

| |
|-----------|
| ♠ A K |
| ♥ K T 3 |
| ♦ A K 8 6 |
| ♣ A J T 9 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 6NT | All Pass | |

6 NT by North

out so it is West who started with 4 ♥s but that won't be a problem for you. Play another ♣ from dummy, finessing the ♣T which wins.

Now play your ♥3 toward dummy, finessing the ♥8 when West follows with a low card. Play dummy's two ♥ winners, discarding ♦s, then the low ♣ to your ♣J. Wow.

And as you have figured by now, assessing how many entries you are going to need is big part of that plan. Like here, if you had won a single ♥ trick in your hand then you wouldn't have had the three entries to dummy.

Baker Entries 19
South is to play 6NT. West leads the ♠T.

Winners: ♠ = 2 ♥ = 5 ♦ = 2 ♣ = 1 Total = T

You need two more winners and the best bet is to try to pick up three ♣ tricks. You will need the ♣K and ♣Q to lie in different hands, or both of them to be with East. That is about a 75% chance.

But you may need to make 3 finesses, so that means 3 entries to dummy, all of which must be in the ♥ suit. Can it be done?

Of course it can. Win the ♠ lead in your hand and play the ♥K, overtaking with dummy's ♥A. Now play a ♣ to your ♣9, which loses to West's ♣K. West plays another ♠.

Now play the ♥T, and when West follows you are safe to overtake with dummy's ♥J since you can tell that East did not start with 4 ♥s. In fact, East shows

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A K Q J 9 7

♥ -

♦ A K 6 2

♣ A J 5

♠ T 4

♥ J 9 2

♦ Q J T 3

♣ T 8 6 2



♠ 8

♥ A K 8 6 5 4 3

♦ 8 5 4

♣ Q 3

♠ 6 5 3 2

♥ Q T 7

♦ 9 7

♣ K 9 7 4

| | | | |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 6♠ | All Pass | | |

6♠ by West

Win the opening lead and lay down your ♣J. The defense is helpless. If they take the ♣J with the ♣K, then you have a dummy entry in the form of the ♣Q. If they refuse to take the trick you will counter by next laying down the ♣A, then ruffing a third ♣ to get to dummy and the two golden eggs.

My dream is that someday I will get a chance to use it at the table. If you ever do be sure and email me.

Baker Entries 20

Pretty bold bidding by West, but partner DID make a positive response. West is to play 6♠. North leads the ♦Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 3

OK, the plan is to get over to dummy for those two ♥ winners.

If you just play a small ♣ toward the ♣Q that will work whenever North holds the ♣K.

How about playing ♣A an a small ♣, planning on ruffing your third ♣ to get to dummy? Naaah. They will win the second ♣ and play a trump.

There is actually a play that is 100% certain, no matter who holds the ♣K.

Win the opening lead and lay down your ♣J. The defense is helpless. If they take the ♣J with the ♣K,