

PLAYING NO TRUMP CONTRACTS

You should make a plan of attack before playing to the first trick. Ask yourself:

- 1. How many tricks do I need?**
- 2. How many tricks do I have on top? Count your winners.**
 - Check whether you have enough winners to fulfil your contract.
- 3. How many more tricks do I need?**
- 4. In what suit can I create these extra tricks?**
 - Long suits are often a source of potential extra tricks.
 - You may have to lose a trick (or two) to set up extra winners.
- 5. Think about entries.**
 - Check that you can manage the entries to cash your suits.
- 6. Create extra winners before cashing your top cards in outside suits.**
 - If you cash top cards in outside suits you may be creating extra tricks for the defenders.
- 7. Stick to your plan.**
 - Keep working on your long suit until the extra winners have been established
 - Remember to cash the winners that you have established.

	♠ A 4 3 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ 9 8 7 4		
♠ 10 9 2 ♥ Q J 10 6 5 ♦ J 2 ♣ K 6 5	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J 8 6 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ J 10 2	
	♠ K 7 5 ♥ K 4 ♦ A 9 7 6 4 ♣ A Q 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

West leads the Q♥ against South's 3 NT. Declarer can see two tricks in spades, two in hearts, two in diamonds and one in clubs. Diamonds offers the best prospects of making the extra tricks required. South should lead diamonds at trick 2 and continue the suit. The defence will make a diamond trick with their combined holding, but once the defenders' diamonds have been played South will be left with two small diamonds, both of which are winners.

	♠ 4 ♥ 8 ♦ 3 ♣ 9 8 7		
♠ 10 ♥ J 10 6 ♦ — ♣ K 6	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J ♥ 9 ♦ Q ♣ J 10	
	♠ 7 ♥ — ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ Q 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

If South is panicky about losing the lead and cashes all of their top cards before leading a third diamond to set up their suit then this will be the situation. South can lead a diamond but the premature cashing of South's stoppers in the outside suits means that the defence will take the last six tricks with their queens and jacks and tens.