



Clone of 925; A series of six declarer-play deals, intended for V-Blue Year 2. SA version.

Y2 VBlue #19 David's Deals SA	Contract: 3N
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 1
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: None

West	North	East	South
-	P	P	1NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

Lead: ♥ 5

West leads the ♥5 against our rapidly bid 3NT.

We have six top tricks and a certain three more in the Diamond suit, even if the finesse against the ♦K were to lose.

Rising with the ♥K at trick one could lose in two different ways. If East holds a doubleton ♥A, we would lose the first five tricks in Hearts. When the cards lie as they do, rising with the ♥K would cost in a different way. We'd cross to our hand to finesse in Diamonds. The finesse loses and East returns a Heart. We'd lose four Hearts and one Diamond.

If we play low from dummy the contract is guaranteed. Suppose East returns his last Heart. Whether or not West wins with the ♥A, the link between the defenders is broken. When we subsequently take a Diamond finesse, East will have no Heart to play. In fact we would score an overtrick, since the ♥K will be added to our total.

In practice, East shifts to the ♠Q, but we win that in hand and take the Diamond finesse in safety. Every suit is still protected.

North	
♠ 94	
♥ K42	
♦ AT874	
♣ K76	
West	East
♠ 532	♠ QJT86
♥ AJ853	♥ QT
♦ 3	♦ K65
♣ J943	♣ T85
South	
♠ AK7	
♥ 976	
♦ QJ92	
♣ AQ2	

This set of six deals is by our guest author, Britain's David Bird.

3NT is sometimes referred to as the 'bread-and-butter contract'. What on earth does that mean? It means that it is the most frequently-occurring contract and therefore the most important one to play well.

Those who earn their living at the rubber bridge table have to know all the wrinkles that allow you make as many such contracts as possible.



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Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 2
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S


West	North	East	South
-	-	P	1♣
P	1♦	P	1♥
P	2♦	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

Lead: ♠ 4

West leads the ♠4 against our 3NT contract and we see that we have eight top tricks (provided we can score the ♦Q, ♦K and ♦A). The best chance of increasing this total lies in the Diamond suit. What is the best play there?

We win the Spade lead in our hand, preserving the ♠Q as an entry to dummy. If we cash the ♦Q and enter dummy with the ♠Q to play Diamonds from the top, we'd need the ♦J to fall in three rounds.

A much better idea is to overtake the ♦Q with the ♦K and then play Diamonds from the top, willing to concede a trick to the ♦J. This will allow us to make five Diamond tricks (for an overtrick) when either defender holds ♦J × × ×

North ♠ Q5 ♥ 874 ♦ AKT962 ♣ 43		East ♠ T62 ♥ QT95 ♦ J874 ♣ Q5	
West ♠ J9743 ♥ K6 ♦ 53 ♣ KJ96			
South ♠ AK8 ♥ AJ32 ♦ Q ♣ AT872			

Two thoughtful moves are required to land your game contract on this deal.

Good luck!



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Y2 VBlue #19 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: South	Board #: 3
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: E / W

West ♠ 4 ♥ K95 ♦ J8752 ♣ QJT7		East ♠ 983 ♥ AQ72 ♦ T6 ♣ K853
North ♠ Q7 ♥ J8643 ♦ A3 ♣ A964		
South ♠ AKJT652 ♥ T ♦ KQ94 ♣ 2		

On this deal you hold a near-minimum point-count for an opening bid. Yes, but you have a great hand!

See if you can make the most of it.

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
P	2♥	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4NT
P	5♥	P	6♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♣ Q

We reach a slam after North makes a cue-bid in support of our Spade suit. West leads the ♣Q – how should we play?

The original declarer saw that he could avoid a Diamond loser by taking a ruff in the dummy. He won the Club lead and played off the ♦A K. He then led the ♦9, ruffing with dummy's ♠Q. Just as well, because if had ruffed with the ♠7, East would have over-ruffed.

Did you spot an even better way to play the contract? We could draw one round of trumps with the ♠A before taking our Diamond ruff. This would cater for the minuscule chance of a defender holding one Diamond and one trump. He would not then be able to ruff the second round of Diamonds.

[Note: *I did not set this as the required line of play for you to follow because the main lesson of the deal was that we should ruff the third round of Diamonds high, with the ♠Q, rather than with the ♠7].*



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Y2 VBlue #19 David's Deals SA

Date: 03/07/2016

Dealer: West


[Play this hand online!](#)

Contract: 3N

By: South

Board #: 4

Vulnerable: All

		North			
		♠ 96			
		♥ K43			
		♦ AT92			
		♣ KJ43			
West	♠ KJ52		East		
	♥ A865				
	♦ 875				
	♣ T5				
				South	
		♠ A84			
		♥ QJT7			
		♦ QJ6			
		♣ AQ2			
				♠ QT73	
				♥ 92	
				♦ K43	
				♣ 9876	

Clues arrive in declarer's lap from all quarters.

See if you can spot the most important clue on this deal.

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	1NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

Lead: ♠ 2

Many a 3NT contract depends on reading how the defenders' main suit breaks. Here West has led the ♠2, so we suspect immediately that Spades are 4-4.

We have nothing to lose by ducking the first trick and East returns the ♠3. Since he would return his fourth-best card from an original four-card holding, this is further evidence that Spades are breaking 4-4.

We win the third round of Spades and see that the best line is to establish the Heart suit. If instead we were to take the Diamond finesse, we would risk losing three Spades, the ♥A and the ♦K.

The cards lie as we envisaged and we make 3NT.



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Y2 VBlue #19 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 5
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	P	1♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4NT
P	5♥	P	6♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♣ 9


We reach 6♠ after North makes a telling cue-bid in support of our Spade suit. West leads the ♣9 against our small slam and we must decide on the best line of play.

We decide that West could be trying to fool us with this ♣9 lead, so we try the ♣Q at trick one. No luck – the ♣Q loses and East returns another Club. We now need to establish dummy's Diamonds to discard some losers from our hand. We play the ♦A and ♦K, continuing with a Diamond ruff. If East had followed to the third round of Diamonds, we would have had to ruff high.

With the Diamonds established, we play the Ace, King and Queen of trumps. We then play the established ♦9 7 6 and discard two Hearts and the last Club from our hand.

What is the point to remember about this deal? When the defenders remove dummy's Club entry, we can see that we will need the ♠Q as an entry to reach the established cards in Diamonds. We cannot therefore afford to draw all the trumps before setting up the Diamond suit.

[Note: Yes, we could play the ♠A and ♠K before playing Diamonds, but this would not help very much. We need Diamonds to break 3-2 anyway].

North		East	
♠ Q54		♠ 76	
♥ 72		♥ Q8653	
♦ AK9762		♦ QT	
♣ AQ		♣ KJ63	
West		East	
♠ T82		♠ 76	
♥ K94		♥ Q8653	
♦ J54		♦ QT	
♣ 9874		♣ KJ63	
South			
♠ AKJ93			
♥ AJT			
♦ 83			
♣ T52			

This is yet another deal where you need to make a plan before rushing to play the first few tricks.

Good luck!



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Y2 VBlue #19 David's Deals SA

Date: 03/07/2016

Dealer: East

[Play this hand online!](#)

Contract: 4S

By: South

Board #: 6

Vulnerable: E / W


West	North	East	South
-	-	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	P	P
P			

Lead: ♥ T

West leads the ♥10 against our Spade game.

If we were to ruff this trick on table, we would lose four tricks in the minor suits and go one down. Instead we should discard a Diamond from dummy.

We win the Diamond switch in dummy and draw trumps in two rounds. We then discard another Diamond from dummy on the established ♥K. We are now able to ruff two Diamonds in the dummy. The contract is ours, for the loss of one Heart and two Clubs.

North			
♠ K982			
♥			
♦ AT5			
♣ JT9764			
West		East	
♠ 74		♠ 3	
♥ T9852		♥ AQJ764	
♦ KJ72		♦ Q86	
♣ A3		♣ KQ5	
South			
♠ AQJT65			
♥ K3			
♦ 943			
♣ 82			

Many interesting deals arise when one side holds the Hearts, the other side holds the Spades.

See how you fare on this one.