

Holding up play

(opponent)

3

A984

A54

J10985

(declarer)

AKJ1065

K5

762

A7

(dummy)

Q98

632

KQJ108

Q5

1S-----2D

3Sp-----4Sp

(opponent)

742

QJ107

93

K532

A reasonable contract but one that should fail.

The declarer will need to draw trumps *and* establish diamonds.

The key play for the defence { on this hand } is for the defender with the Ace diamonds to hold up the play of the Ace until the third round.

If they do do that declarer is cut off from the dummy.

How does the defender with the Ace diamonds know to hold up twice in diamonds?

Perhaps they just guessed (!) but if they look at their partner's *distributional signals*

ie 9 then 3 in diamonds they will know partner held a doubleton diamond and

therefore ,....declarer holds three diamonds.

NB declarer might try the effect of only drawing two rounds of trumps BUT that wont work as the defenders can trump the third round of diamonds.

Defenders cashout play

(opponent)

A103

98752

84

A102

(declarer)

QJ7

AKQJ

762

765

(dummy)

K98

1063

AKQJ

Q94

1NT-----3NT

(opponent)

6542

4

10953

KJ83

The defenders should win out -but will they ? Declarer should win the Hrt lead and try and take a spade trick. The player with the Ace spades should fly up with the Ace and switch to a club . Contract 1 off. Why should they do that ? It can be deduced from partner's play of the 4 Hrts at trick 1 that declarer has 4 tricks in Hrts { A+K+Q+J} and 4 x Diamonds. If they also take a spade trick 3NT has been made. Time to cash out for the defenders.

