

1) A simple line would be to draw trumps and then take a club finesse; not such a bad idea but you can do better.

We are going to draw trumps, eliminate the side suits and execute a throw-in and endplay. ! {Sounds impressive anyway}. Here's how to play :-

Win Ace Hrts; draw trumps; play all 4 winning diamonds; then lead a Hrt; The opponents will of course win the Hrt (with the Q Hrts) BUT then they will be stuck! They will have to lead a club *into* our AQ (so it's impossible to lose a club trick) or they might lead a suit to give us a ruff and discard.

If you play like this, then, given that the K Hrts was led and therefore the leader holds the Q Hrts, that the contract is 100% certain. Better than a finesse what?

2) This one looks like it might be a ruffing finesse type. {It is}.

Win Ace Hrts; Unblock Ace Diamonds; draw trumps in 2 rounds ending in dummy; lead the Q diamonds for a ruffing finesse. {this will only "work" of course if the K diamonds is favourably placed for the declarer}. Still 50% odds are better than not trying anything.

3) Hmmm... declarer is playing on spades?! (and not diamonds)? Odd methinks.

If we count declarer's tricks they are :-

Hrts {A + K + Q}.....Diamonds {A + K + Q + J + 10} ie surely declarer has Ace diamonds; That makes 8 tricks already; probably declarer holds the Q spades and is trying to *steal* a ninth trick. Well not today they're not.

Play the Ace spades and lead a small club. If partner holds the Ace clubs the contract is likely to go one off.

4) We need to prevent declarer getting to the diamond suit in dummy.

Actually in 3NT we could probably get away with withholding our Ace until the very last moment. However -if partner is to be trusted to play *distributional signals* {also known as count signals} we may be able to work out exactly when to play our Ace.

Partner played the 8 diamonds so has an even number of diamonds ie 2 or 4; Almost certainly partner has 2 diamonds and the declarer three diamonds so we should wait until the third round of diamonds before releasing our Ace. You see why on the basis that declarer has three diamonds that we wait until the third round? We only release our Ace when the declarer will have no more diamonds left to lead.

5) 1NT -----2C  
2D-----3NT

6) 1NT-----3S  
4S  
NB 5 card majors should be bid

7) 1NT-----3NT  
NB 3D is unnecessary  
and an overstatement

8) 1NT-----2C  
2S-----2NT  
3H-----Pass.  
Perfect! Would you have bid like that?

9) Partner has asked for a club lead with their L.D.D

Well ok BUT I am leading the Ace hrts first { to take stock }; after that I will (probably) lead a club.

10) A Lightner double from partner; partner has a void and if I can guess which suit to lead then they will ruff the opening lead.

A guess. Will lead a Hrt on the basis that I have some length in that suit and partner might not !