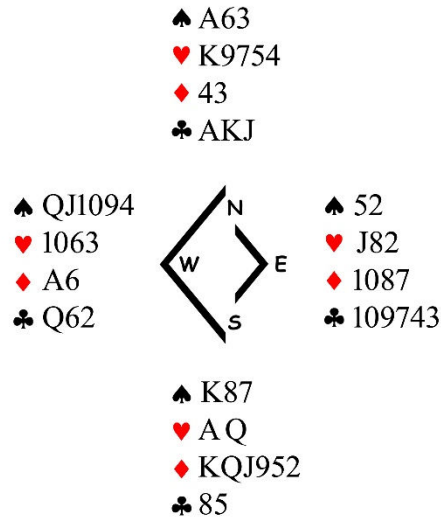


332. Pulling 3NT is a Slam Try

Published in the Trail Times, on page 2 of Friday May 12th & on page 2 of Wednesday May 24th, 2017



S	W	N	E
1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♥	P
3 ♦	P	3NT	P
4 ♦	P	4 ♠	P
4NT	P	5 ♥	P
6 ♦	All Pass		

--None Vulnerable--

This is a very interesting hand that occurred at the Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club. We play bridge every Monday at noon at the Warfield Hall. A lesson starts half an hour before game time.

The bidding:

South, with 15 points, opens One Diamond. West overcalls One Spade, and North bids Two Hearts showing 10 HCP's or more and promising a rebid. South rebids diamonds showing six, and North, with an opener himself, and a Spade Stopper, bids 3NT.

South pulls 3NT for Four Diamonds not because he is afraid 3NT won't make, he has a Spade stopper himself, but because he is interested in a Diamond slam. North also likes the idea of a slam because his hand is not quacky, so he cuebids his Spade Ace, setting Diamonds as trump.

South bids 0314 Roman keycard Blackwood, and North shows two keycards without the Diamond Queen. The response forces six, but South is fine with that and bids Six Diamonds.

Opening Lead: West has a natural lead of the Spade Queen, top of an honour sequence.

The Play:

Declarer wins the opening lead, and drives out the trump Ace. He then draws trump and counts his tricks, two Spades, five Hearts, five Diamonds and two Clubs for more than enough tricks for small slam. Taking the Club finesse works but would be an unneeded risk.

The Result:

Declarer makes 12 tricks for +920.