

Twoonie Talk #4

No Trump Play

Warren Watson

Last Revised March 7, 2015

KJBC & KDBC

All Contracts are 3NT with a spade opening lead.

1. South is playing a 3NT contract at matchpoints and West makes an opening lead of the Spade Jack. East plays small. What is played at Trick One from Declarer's Hand, South?

1a. ♠765 ♥KQ ♦N ♦AJ1093 ♣KQJ

♠KQ2 ♥AJ10 ♦K854 ♣A32

1b. ♠765 ♥KQ ♦N ♦AJ1093 ♣KQJ

♠KQ2 ♥AJ10 ♦Q854 ♣A32

2. ♠6 is led against 3NT by South and the diamonds are 3-0. Make your contract plus two.

♠32 ♥AK2 ♦N ♦AK87 ♣AK54

♠A87 ♥654 ♦Q65432 ♣J

3. ♠8 is led against 3NT. Make your contract. Could an eight be fourth best? Can a 9 be fourth best without a better honour lead?

♠6 ♥K3 ♦N ♦AQJ1098 ♣QJ109

♠AQ ♥10987 ♦K76 ♣8765









4. 6♠ led against 3NT at imps. How do you play? Is the play different at matchpoints? Do you always risk the contract to make as many tricks as possible? If a switch can kill the contract, do you hope the opponents do not find it or do you just don't give them a chance?

♠AQ ♥10754 ♦N ♦AQJ1098 ♣Q

♠542 ♥K3 ♦K765 ♣AK42

5. ♦5 was led against 3NT and East plays the ♦2. How do you play the hand?

♠654 ♥AK6 ♦N ♦Q ♣AKxxxx

6. ♠A32 ♥532 ♦AJ1098 ♣xx (4C-3)
 ♠5 ♥AKQJ N 6543 ♣QJ65

 ♠A432 ♥32 ♦AK2 ♣A432
7. ♠ led, how do you play the following? (2D-7)
 ♠A65 ♥A6 N 5432 ♣Q432

 ♠J432 ♥Q2 ♦KQJ10 ♣AKJ
8. ♠AQ ♥5432 ♦5432 ♣J103 2A-34 Spade led, plan the play.

 ♠J432 ♥AQ ♦AK ♣AQ987
9. ♠543 ♥AJ10 N ♦432 ♣K765 2B-3 Spade 6 led, plan the play.

 ♠A2 ♥432 ♦AKQJ ♣A432
10. ♠K ♥Q4 ♦8765 ♣KQ9876 2B-6 K♠ wins opening lead. Plan the play.

 ♠Q32 ♥AK32 ♦A432 ♣A10
11. ♠K3 ♥A432 ♦32 ♣AK654 2B-13 Spade lead.

 ♠AJ2 ♥765 ♦KQJ109 ♣32
12. ♠543 ♥J4 N ♦AQ2 ♣AK432 2C-24 Small ♠ led and East Q.

 ♠AJ2 ♥KQ32 ♦KJ10 ♣765
13. ♠543 ♥A4 ♦AQ2 ♣KQJ43 K♠ led against 3NT

 ♠AJ2 ♥KQ32 ♦KJ10 ♣765

Twoonie Talk #4 Answers

No Trump Play

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1. South is playing a 3NT contract and West makes an opening lead of the Spade Jack. East plays small. What is played at Trick One from Declarer's Hand, South?

1a. Win King and run ♦J into West.

1b. Duck the opening lead with the 2 so it is

♠KQ2 ♥AJ10 ♦Q854 ♣A32 safe to finesse Diamonds.

2. ♠6 is led against 3NT by South and the diamonds are 3-0. Make 5NT.

♠32 ♥AK2 ♦AK87 ♣AK54



Discard Blocking Card.

Duck ♠'s twice and pitch ♦7 on ♠Ace

♠A87 ♥654 ♦Q65432 ♣J

3. ♠8 is led against 3NT. Make your contract.

Could an eight be fourth best? (yes, KJ98)

Can a 9 be fourth best without a better honour lead? No, ♠AKJ9 or AQ109

Need 3 ♠ stoppers to set up ♣'s. Play 10♥ to the King.

4. 6♠ led against 3NT at imps. How do you play? Win Ace. Is the play different at matchpoints? No, only if you not having a good game and a top will bring your game on track. Do you always risk the contract to make as many tricks as possible? It is risk reward. Would you take a finesse to gain one trick if you risk losing one trick or would you take a finesse to gain one trick at the risk of losing 3 or 4 tricks and the contract? At matchpoints there is a tendency to do this. If it is a contract you do not think many people will find then play it like imps. If a switch can kill the contract, do you hope the opponents do not find it or do you just don't give them a chance? It is debatable. I bet poker players love these type of situations. Always play slams like imps especially in a field that rarely finds them.

♠AQ ♥10754 ♦AQJ1098 ♣Q



Win ♠Ace and take your top 10 tricks.

If ♠King is offside, a heart switch sets the contract

♠542 ♥K3 ♦K765 ♣AK42

5. ♦5 was led against 3NT and East plays the ♦2. How do you play the hand?

♠654 ♥AK6 ♦Q ♣AKxxxx



Win ♦Ace and play ♦Jack.


♠A32 ♥532 ♦AJ1098 ♣xx

♠ 5 ♥ AKQJ ♦ 6543 ♣ QJ65

♠ A432 ♥ 32 ♦ AK2 ♣ A432

4C-3 ♠ led Hold up three times to find out how ♥'s are split. If West has 5 ♠'s, cash A♣. If West has 3 ♠'s or fewer, finesse ♣ into him. If 4-4, just play A♣ and small to the Queen-Jack.

♠ A65 ♥ A6 ♦ 5432 ♣ Q432



2D-7 Win Ace♠, cash AKJ♣ and drive out ♦ace. Need A♥ for Q♣-

a heart switch kills the contract

♠J432 ♥Q2 ♦KQJ10 ♣AKJ
 ♠AQ ♥5432 ♦5432 ♣J103 2A-34 W
 N
 W E
 S
 ♠J432 ♥AQ ♦AK ♣AQ987 To

2A-34 Win Ace to avoid a heart switch.

Take the club finesse and hearts are safe

♠543 ♥AJ10 ♦432 ♣K765
 W E
 S
 ♠A2 ♥432 ♦AKQJ ♣A432

2B-3 6♠ is opening lead so spades are 4-4
3-2 break is 68%. Getting one heart trick=76%
Cannot hurt holding up. Take Heart hook twice.

♠K ♥Q4 ♦8765 ♣KQ9876

W N E S

♠Q32 ♥AK32 ♦A432 ♣A10

2B-6 K[♠] wins. Finesse clubs into West to

protect Qx of spades.


♠K3 ♥A432 ♦32 ♣AK654
 ♠AJ2 ♥765 ♦KQJ109 ♣32

2B-13 Win King keeping Ace as entry to

the diamonds

♠543 ♥J4 ♦AQ2 ♣AK432

♠AJ2 ♥KQ32 ♦KJ10 ♣76



2C-24 win honour from East with Ace and

lose a club to West.

♠543 ♥A4 ♦AQ2 ♣KQJ43
♠AJ2 ♥KQ32 ♦KJ10 ♣765

K♠ led against 3NT

Bath Coup-Duck Smoothly and hope RHO does not signal properly and you win the Ace-Jack. If West switches then you have two effective stoppers, either way.