

1( (i) “Duh this question’s a bit easy isn’t it ?” Yes

Hand (ii) is the crossruff hand. Just making the point that you need shortages and usually insufficient points to “make “ a hand a crossruffer.

“Anyway I just usually draw a few trumps before I do anything”

Then you will go down on a crossruff hand.

2) Trick 1) ruff a diamond Trick 2)Ace clubs Trick 3) diamond ruff Trick 4)club ruff  
Trick 5)diamond ruff Trick 6) club ruff etc etc

3)Doesn’t matter too much whether at trick 2 you ruff a club or play a diamond.  
I will continue as if I trumped a club at tric k 2

Trick 1) win Ace clubs Trick 2)ruff a club Trick 3) Ace diamonds  
**Trick 4)small diamond loses** ...this is the important play

Opponents will now probably lead a trump

Trick 5) win trump Trick 6) ruff a diamond Trick 7) ruff club Trick 8 ) ruff diamond

4) Now play Ace diamonds. Next play a small diamond.

Yes you have drawn trumps ( in order to reduce the number of ruffs that declarer can make)

Whether this will beat declarer remains to be seen but it’s the right start.

BTW whenever you see a competent declarer *not* draw trumps you should consider if you as a defender should be the one to start drawing trumps. (On the basis if drawing trumps was good for declarer they would have done so. Course this thinking is invalid if the declarer is just a nincompoop )

5) Partner’s 2NT is strong. How strong is a tricky one to answer but generally 15-----18. On that basis we will need to get to game. Either raise to 3NT or bid 3C stayman. NB for those who thought that 2NT was “ unusual “ ...we ONLY play the unusual 2NT against strong/normal openers and never against weak openers.

6) Well West didn’t *have to* bid spades at all but it does strike one as a bit wet to pass throughout on their hand. Best was to pass originally and at their 2<sup>nd</sup> turn to bid ( after |South’s 2H bid ) *then* bid 2Sp.

7) lead the 5 diamonds to the 10 diamonds. ( or for the pedants , Ace diamonds then the 5 diamonds to the 10 ). Dangerous opponent avoidance play.

8) BTW it would be considered unethical to take advantage of an overheard conversation ... anyway you didn’t need to eavesdrop to know to play the spades and do so in the following order: Ace spades; then Q spades;  
You are simply preserving the tenace ( keeping an honour and the 10 together ) in case you need a late finesse. This is the position you are catering for:

