

Homework answers top of nothing leads

- 1) you play the 3. Make no effort to win the trick.
Consider what happens if you play the Q- it loses. No surprise there.
Not only does it lose though it also helps declarer to come to 4 tricks.
On the play of the 3 (losing to declarer's 10) declarer can only take 3 tricks.
- 2) again there is no point in playing the K. My contention is
 - (i) you may yet make your K later in the hand (if you play the 3 at trick 1) and
 - (ii) you are making life awkward for declarer who will have to access dummy a number of times to take finesses in the suit
- 3) the K. OK ? Partner hasn't led top of nothing so (has an honour) and so we should try to win the trick. NB we play high to either win or to help promote a trick for partner.
- 4) the 2. Done this now.
- 5) (i) Trick 1--- If the Q sp is played the declarer wins with the K.
Declarer has now 10 tricks on top -
A + K + J + 10 Sp + A + K hrts + A + K diamonds + A + K clubs
Trick 2 - small heart to the Ace Trick 3 - small diamond to the J (wins)
Declarer can now cash out 12 tricks*NB there were (good) alternatives as to how to play this hand (and I will publish later the very best line) but have taken this line now to show you how 12 tricks fall into place with a diamond finesse if the Q sp is blithely played at trick 1.
- (ii) Tricks 1 -if the Q sp is NOT played at trick 1 -the J sp wins.
There is NO way to make the hand. Whatever declarer tries ultimately fails.
Yes they can go to dummy to take a diamond finesse (which wins) but they will always be a trick short. (the hearts are a bit of an oily red fish -if you lead the J Hrts it gets covered by the Q and you are no further forward)
- 6) K hrts. Go back over the auction if you dont understand. LDD ? Email if you cant see it.
- 7) Well we know 2D was Michaels and not a real suit (obviously). What does it mean if partner doubles a conventional bid ? Is it lead directing ? Yes. Cf Q 6 ?
- 8) Declarer holds : A + K + Q + J hrts + Q diamonds (and probably J diamonds);
Partner holds the Ace spades.
At trick 2 I win with the K diamonds and lead the 3 sp to partners Ace spades; they send a spade back and I take the K + J + 4 sp. One off.
Ok ...well for that to work we need declarer to have less than four spades. Reasonable.
It was yet another case of counting declarer's points [at trick 2 we knew 13 of them !] and were able to divine partner held the Ace spades.
Will I ever be able to do this ? Yes but it doesnt happen overnight.

* best play to Q5) in 6NT; T1) if Q sp is played win with Ace; T2) K Hrts T3) J Hrts and when covered by Q DONT play Ace [you are hoping the suit breaks 3-2 and the Hearts remaining are winners] T4) win the next lead T5) (as hearts didnt break) take the (winning) diamond finesse. This line increases the chances of success AS LONG AS THE Q SP IS PLAYED AT TRICK 1.
If the Q sp is withheld at trick 1 there is no way of making the contract.

