

## Play of Third Hand

Feb. 7, 2017

These two hands are not easy. They require some deductive reasoning based on the idea that your partner, in third seat, will play the lower of touching honours or only as high as necessary to beat the dummy.

Hand No. 1

		♠ A 5	West	North	East	Sout
		♥ 10 7 4		1♣	P	1♦
		♦ J 4	P	3♣	P	3NT
		♣ A K Q J 9 2	P	P		
♠ Q 10 4						
♥ K 6 5 3 2						
♦ A 9 4 2						
♣ 10						
		♠				
		♥ A				
		♦				
		♣				

West leads 3♥, the fourth highest of his longest suit. East plays the 9 and south wins the ace. Put yourself in the position of west. Even though you can't see partner's cards, you can figure out his holding in the heart suit. Do you know who holds Q♥ or for that matter, the J♥? Clearly it is not south. Otherwise he would have played it at trick one and it would have provided his ninth trick.

After declarer wins the A♥, everybody at the table can see that south will cash six club tricks and the spade ace. What will you do when you win the A♦? Lead a low heart to partner's Q-J, overtake partner's heart return with your K and cash your remaining hearts.

		♠ A 5		
		♥ 10 7 4		
		♦ J 4		
		♣ A K Q J 9 2		
♠ Q 10 4			♠ K 9 8 7	
♥ K 6 5 3 2			♥ Q J 9	
♦ A 9 4 2			♦ 8 6	
♣ 10			♣ 7 6 5 3	
		♠ J 5 3 2		
		♥ A 8		
		♦ K Q 10 7 3		
		♣ 8 4		

# Play of Third Hand

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Hand No. 2

	West	North	East	South
	3NT	P	1NT	P
<p>♠ A 8 6 4</p> <p>♥ Q 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ 9 5</p> <p>♣ 10 8 4</p>				
<p>♠ J 9 3</p> <p>♥ 8 6</p> <p>♦ K 8 7 6 4</p> <p>♣ K Q J</p>				
<p>♠ 7 2</p> <p>♥ A 10 7 5</p> <p>♦ A 3 2</p> <p>♣ 6 5 3 2</p>				
<p>♠ K Q 10 5</p> <p>♥ K J 9</p> <p>♦ Q J 10</p> <p>♣ A 9 7</p>				

South leads 5♥ to partner's Q and declarer's K. Partner's Q denies holding the J. South therefore knows that declarer holds J♥. Declarer attacks diamonds and south eventually wins A♦. If south tries to cash hearts, declarer's J♥ will be promoted for his ninth trick. South must be patient and exit with a spade. This patience is rewarded when north wins A♠ and returns a heart, trapping declarer's J.