

342. Not So Disappointing Dummy

Playing in a team event against experienced and resourceful opponents, I hold:

♠ 8 3 ♥ K J 3 ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ A 7 6 5 2

We are red versus white. West deals and passes. Partner opens **one diamond**. East passes. I try **one notrump**. Partner raises to **two notrump** and with a maximum I go on to **three notrump**. The full auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West leads the four of spades and partner's hand is somewhat disappointing:

♠ A 9 6 5
♥ A
♦ A J 4 3 2
♣ J 9 3

4♠ led

♠ 8 3
♥ K J 3
♦ Q 8 7
♣ A 7 6 5 2

East plays the king and jack of spades on the first two rounds of spades, and I duck both times. East switches to the eight of hearts won by dummy's ace. Assuming diamonds break reasonably, I have eight tricks, with additional chances in hearts or clubs.

I play a diamond to the queen and West's king, and West clears the spades. Now I run three diamonds to produce this five-card ending:

♠ 9
♥ —
♦ 3
♣ J 9 3

♠ 10
♥ Q 10
♦ —
♣ Q 10

♠ —
♥ 9 8
♦ —
♣ K 8 4

♠ —
♥ K J
♦ —
♣ A 7 6

When I play the last diamond, East discards a club. I have to hope that the club discard is from a three-card suit, so I throw the ♥J. West discards the ♥10. Now a small club is led from dummy. East rises with the king. I duck and soon claim the rest for nine tricks.

The full deal:

♠ A 9 6 5
♥ A
♦ A J 4 3 2
♣ J 9 3

♠ Q 10 7 4 2
♥ Q 10 5
♦ K 10 5
♣ Q 10

♠ 8 3
♥ K J 3
♦ Q 8 7
♣ A 7 6 5 2

♣ K J
♥ 9 8 7 6 4 2
♦ 9 6
♣ K 8 4

If East keeps her three clubs by throwing a heart on the last diamond, declarer must discard a low club. West finds herself under pressure: she must keep her high spade and her heart guard, so she is forced to throw the ♣10. Now a club to the ace drops the ♣Q. The king of hearts removes East's remaining heart, leaving her with ♣K8. A club is led to dummy's ♠J9 to promote the ♠J as the ninth trick.