

367- 2023 – Gambling 3NT

This one came up at the Club this week, you sit East

Dealer W all Vul

THE FULL HAND

	NORTH	
	QJ10	
	Q762	
	J6	
	K876	
WEST		EAST
96		K752
109543		-
3		AKQ9754
AJ1032		Q9
	SOUTH	
	A843	
	AKJ8	
	1082	
	54	

BIDDING

W	N	E	S
P	P	1D	X
1H	P	3NT (1) P	
P	P		

- (1) Gambling – once Partner shows Hearts, 5D is very unlikely to make, and West's Hearts should provide a stopper for 3NT

THE PLAY

South led SA, and maybe seeing North's S10 as encouraging, continued Spades. East won and cashed out – 9 Tricks

Note that if the Diamonds don't break (3-2 or J10 Doubleton), East has a second chance – the Club finesse

COMMENT

The Gambling 3NT should be in your bidding armoury. Making 9 tricks is easier than 11 in a minor suit, and scores the same at Game level. Extra Tricks score better

THE LEAD

South should lead HA, not SA, to have a look at Dummy. When East has no Hearts, South knows they will make 4 Heart Tricks

South needs to take care after playing A, K and J of Hearts – if he plays the 4th Heart to North, North may not return a Spade and East may be able to run off the next 9 Tricks with the SA stranded. So, cash SA before leading the last Heart to North

On this deal as the cards lie, if South plays the 4th Heart to North, before cashing SA, North will surely come back with a Spade, and NS will win the first 7 Tricks (unless East plays SK to North's third Spade, in which case NS will win the first 8 Tricks). But that is too big a risk to take

MORAL OF THE STORY

What makes Bridge so much fun is its variety – many Hands are vanilla, and the challenge is to make that extra Trick for a good score

Other Hands are 'wilder', such as the above Hand – Gambling Bids can be very lucrative and should be used

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

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