

01- 2024 – Count your Tricks

Dealer W All Vul

Here is a Hand from last week

	NORTH	
	984	
	AK9	
	AK3	
	J943	
	WEST	EAST
	AKQ2	1076
	Q8	J107
	Q1096	J752
	1052	876
	SOUTH	
	J53	
	65432	
	84	
	AKQ	

THE BIDDING AT OUR TABLE

West	North	East	South
1D	1NT	3D (1)	3H (2)
P	P (3)	P	

- (1) A silly bid – see (2) below
- (2) South should double – 3Dx goes down 3 = 800. But he bid 3H
- (3) I decided to Pass – given both East and West had bid, I did not think we would make 4H

CONTRACT

3H by South

THE PLAY

West led AKQ of Spades, and later East made HJ = 9 Tricks

We scored 100%, as at other tables 4H was bid and went down

OTHER TABLES

I noticed at all other Tables 4H was played by North, with East leading a Diamond (partner's bid suit) or a Club (no Easts led a Spade)

How do you make 10 Tricks?

You count your tricks

4 Hearts, 4 Clubs and AK of Diamonds = 10

As this was on Bridge Base, I looked up and saw where it went wrong

Declarers invariably drew AK of Hearts and then drew the Third Trump. East got in and switched to a Spade. West took 3 Spades, Contract down

COMMENT

You should win the lead, play AK of Hearts, then play AKQ of Clubs (hoping the Defender with the last Heart has at least 3 Clubs (pew, it works here!). Then cross to the North Hand with a Diamond, and play CJ throwing a losing Spade

East can Trump CJ if he wishes, or wait, but all you lose is 2 Spades and 1 Heart

MORAL OF THE STORY

Count your Tricks early. Look at ways to make your Contract. Don't draw the last Trump if the Defenders will win it anyway (and especially if you are heavily exposed in a suit - Spades here)

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

5 January 2024