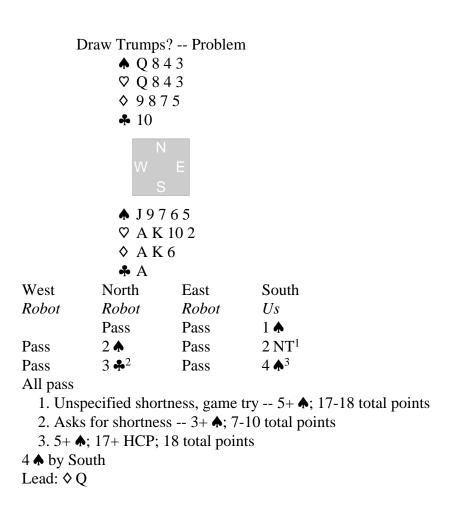
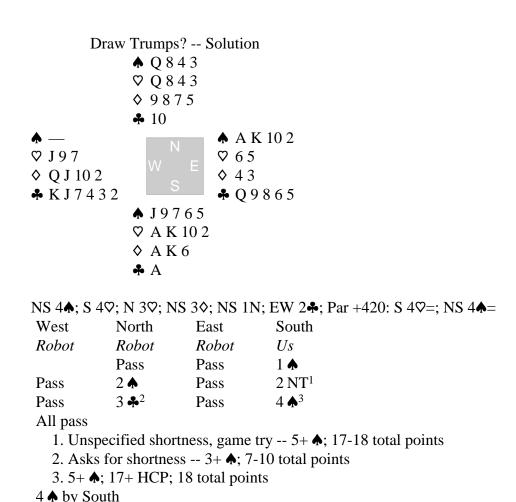
Board 9North Deals E-W Vul



We win the opening lead of the \Diamond Q with the more-deceptive ace, as East follows with the \Diamond 4. When we lead small to the \Diamond Q, East wins the \Diamond K while West discards a club!

East returns the \diamond 3. Plan the play -- be specific.

Board 9North Deals
E-W Vul



We win the opening lead of the \Diamond Q with the more-deceptive ace, as East follows with the \Diamond 4. When we lead small to the \spadesuit Q, East wins the \spadesuit K while West discards a club!

Lead: ♦ O

East returns the \diamondsuit 3. Plan the play -- be specific.

It looks like West has the remaining diamonds. Let's play East for five clubs and therefore, two hearts. We cash the \clubsuit A, stripping that suit, and a top heart -- the key play -- before leading low to the \heartsuit Q.

The lead of the ♠ 8 skewers East: if they duck, we do it again, losing no trumps, so East rises with the ♠ A. East knows better than to lead a club, a ruff-sluff entry to dummy, giving us all the rest of the tricks. East leads another trump; we finesse and yield a diamond at the end.

(The robots play better than 60% of club players. Here, though, West guesses wrong at the end, and the \diamond 6 wins for a 100% score. A human West would know that a human partner would have discarded (or led) the \diamond 6, and thus does not have it.)