

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

Draw Trumps? -- Problem

♠ Q 8 4 3
♥ Q 8 4 3
♦ 9 8 7 5
♣ 10



♠ J 9 7 6 5
♥ A K 10 2
♦ A K 6
♣ A

West	North	East	South
<i>Robot</i>	<i>Robot</i>	<i>Robot</i>	<i>Us</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 ♣ ²	Pass	4 ♠ ³

All pass

1. Unspecified shortness, game try -- 5+ ♠; 17-18 total points
2. Asks for shortness -- 3+ ♠; 7-10 total points
3. 5+ ♠; 17+ HCP; 18 total points

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ Q

Our robot partner does not understand the concept of a short suit *slam* try. 3 ♠ would show our singleton club, but would not be forcing; 3 NT or 4 ♣ means something else. So we jump to game. (See my book *EZ-Expert Bidding Tools* for better game and slam tries.)

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

East returns the ♦ 3. Plan the play -- be specific.

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Draw Trumps? -- Solution

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

NS 4♠; S 4♥; N 3♥; NS 3♦; NS 1N; EW 2♣; Par +420; S 4♥=; NS 4♠=

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	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
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Lead: ♦ Q

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

East returns the ♦ 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 ♣ A, stripping that suit, and a top heart -- the key play -- before leading low to the ♥ 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 ♦ 6 wins for a 100% score. A human West would know that a human partner would have discarded (or led) the ♦ 6, and thus does not have it.)