Declarer Play, Set 8



NORTH

♦ K J 2
● 9 5

N

S

SOUTH

♥ 4 ● 8 5

1NT P

Ε

Ρ

• 987652

• 10 6 4 3 2

W

3NT

S

Ρ

W

🖤 K J 10 7 6 3

E

EAST

🔶 K J 3

♥ A Q 8

뤚 A Q J

10 9 7 4

A 8

WEST

♠ Q 10 4

• A Q 6 3

Ν

1

Р

952

뤚 K 8 7

1. With 11 top winners, 12th must come either from 13 diamond (if 3-3 split) or else from club queen. Win lead, pull trump, cash heart, cash diamonds ending in dummy. Diamonds did not break 3-3, but North has the last diamond. So throw North in with that diamond, discarding the club 3. North must return a club into the AQ, or else surrender a ruff and sluff.

2. Behold a heart loser and a club loser. The apparent endplay to win the club Q is to pull trump, cash diamonds, cash the heart, and then throw in with the heart, requiring a club return. If the player who wins the heart trick also has the club K, then the club Q will make the 12th trick. BUT, as play ensues, South shows only 1 spade and only 1 heart, while North shows only 2 diamonds. Those results allow the hand to be counted. North has started with 3 clubs and South with 6. South, therefore, is a 2 to 1 favorite to hold the club K. So, after pulling trump and cashing the high hearts and high diamonds, cash the ace of clubs and continue a club. South must win the club king and yield a ruff and sluff. Counting the hand has illuminated a different endplay than originally planned,

3. Only 6 top winners. 3 are not available in one suit only. If spades are established, then the Q of diamonds can become the 9the trick on an endplay. So win heart lead, knock out spade ace. Cash clubs and spades. North must discard twice. One is the small diamond, the second a small heart (if he discards the diamond jack instead, drop his king, which he is known to have). His shape can be counted. Since he discarded a heart, that threat is gone, so throw North in with a heart and wait for the final diamond lead to score the AQ.