

Don't Relax When Dummy Is Strong II

By Anders Brunzell

Board 23
South Deals
Both Vul

	♠ A K 7 4		
	♥ J 10 3		
	♦ K 9 2		
	♣ K 8 3		
♠ 10 3 2	N	E	
♥ A 8 6	W	S	
♦ Q 6 4			
♣ 7 6 5 4			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 NT	All pass	1 NT ¹
1. 15-17			

South opens a 15-17 1NT which North raises to game. You start with a club and the depressing dummy is presented. North plays low and East's ten is taken by the queen. South leads the seven of hearts but now you are awake and promptly take the ace and continue clubs. This time declarer wins ten tricks. The whole layout:

	♠ A K 7 4		
	♥ J 10 3		
	♦ K 9 2		
	♣ K 8 3		
♠ 10 3 2	N	E	♠ 9 8 5
♥ A 8 6	W	S	♥ 9 5 4 2
♦ Q 6 4			♦ A J 10 5
♣ 7 6 5 4			♣ 10 2
	♠ Q J 6		
	♥ K Q 7		
	♦ 8 7 3		
	♣ A Q J 9		

It was right to take the ace of hearts immediately, but wrong to continue clubs. How could you know? East's minor-suit holdings might well have been reversed.

Yes, but you cannot take more than three tricks in clubs, whatever East's holding, as South must have at least one more card in the suit for his no-trump opening. What you do know is that East has at most five points, so you should place those points as favorably as possible, and play accordingly!

Hence the correct continuation is the queen of diamonds, and indeed ... Bingo!