

# Sitting Duck

North-South are a little shy of the 25 or so HCP generally required to make 3NT. On the other hand, they do have a source of tricks in clubs which gets declarer up to eight winners. And where there are eight there's often a ninth, as East is about to find out to his detriment.

West dutifully leads his partner's heart suit and the jack is taken by declarer's ace (holding up won't achieve anything). The ♣K comes next and East wins his ace. At this point East can count (at least) eight tricks for declarer, namely two spades (because surely declarer has the ace), one heart, one diamond and four clubs. East can also deduce that

declarer started with ♥A109x, because West's opening lead from ♥10x would be the ten and from ♥10xx would be a low one. That being the case, it's clear that persisting with hearts will merely serve to set up declarer's game-going trick. A diamond is no better, of course, so East does the best he can by exiting safely with a club. A nice try, but it just delays the inevitable.

On the run of the clubs declarer pitches two spades and a diamond, and then cashes the ♠K followed by the ♠A. With East known to have the missing heart honors and nothing left but red cards, he is a sitting duck for an end-play. Declarer simply exits with the ♥10 and sits back smugly while East chooses whether to surrender the ninth trick in hearts or in diamonds.

## Board 2

East Deals  
N-S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠
Pass	3 NT	2 ♥	2 NT
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 8			