

Jim's Lessons - Week 4 #4 Third Hand Play

Source: Puritan Bridge Club Open Game of Tuesday May 30, 2017.

Contract: 2♠ by West

Lead: 6♦

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ 7 6 2
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ 10 8 7 6 3
 ♣ K J

♠ K Q 10 8 5 4 3
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ A 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9
 ♥ K J 6 5 3 2
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ 9 8 6 4

♠ A J
 ♥ 9 8 7
 ♦ K 9 5 2
 ♣ Q 10 7 2

Contract	Lead	Made	Scores		Matchpoints	
			N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
3♠ W	♦ 10	3		140	5.79	1.21
2♠ W	♦ 3	3		140	5.79	1.21
3♥ E	♦ 2	3		140	5.79	1.21
3NT N	♥ 6	-3		150	3.50	3.50
3♠ W	♦ 6	4		170	1.21	5.79
3♠ W	♦ 10	4		170	1.21	5.79
2♠ W	♦ 8	4		170	1.21	5.79

Above are the scores for the game

Makeable Contracts: EW 2N; EW 2♠; N 3♦; S 2♦; EW 1♥;

Bidding:	N	E	S	W
		2H	P	2S*1
	P	P	P	P

*1 Alert - Played as not forcing
 Lead: 6D

Board #14 Defense – Don't play 3rd hand high if it gives declarer an entry to dummy.

Defender Tip - When Partner leads a diamond do not play the king of diamonds on the queen (or jack) in dummy. By failing to cover the diamond, South hopes he might be denying declarer (West) an entry to dummy's hearts. As you can see from data for that day's game 3 Wests made 10 tricks with a diamond lead. This probably means that the declarer was able to lead a heart up to the dummy with a diamond entry to obtain the club discard on the king of hearts.

Note: Without a diamond lead E/W might only make 8 tricks. With a diamond lead E/W can make 9 tricks and 10 tricks if South covers the diamond honor played from the East hand. Three declarers make 10 tricks with a diamond lead.

It is really difficult for North to find a better lead. It turns out that the king of club lead would work to hold E/W to only 8 tricks.