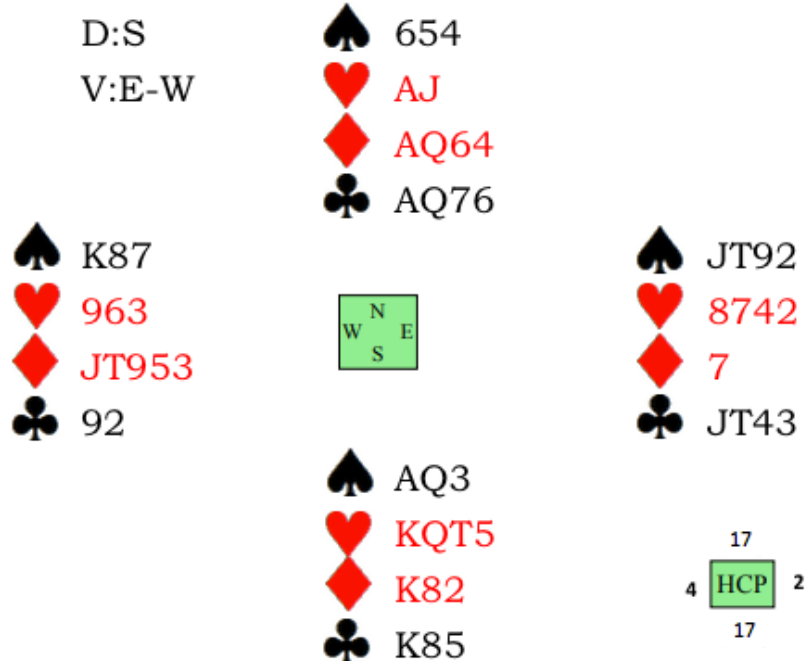


THE END PLAY



| | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 1NT |
| P | 4NT | P | 6NT |

West leads the Jack of Diamonds, which South wins with the King. Let's start by just counting our tricks. How many sure tricks do we have? Spades=1 Hearts=4 Diamonds=3 Clubs=3

We are only sure of 11 tricks, yet we need twelve to make the contract. The Spade finesse might work, but do we have other options? We have 4 sure tricks in Hearts, and seven cards each in the minor suits. Let's play the Hearts, which break 4-3 (we can pitch two Spades from Dummy). Then the Club suit, which leaves the East hand holding the fourth Club. Let's switch to the Diamond suit. A small Diamond to the Queen in Dummy, and East shows out. West started with 5 Diamonds. Now we are left with 1 Spade, one Club, and one Diamond in Dummy. Do we now finesse the Queen of Spades and hope for the best? If we were paying attention, we know that East holds a winner in Clubs, and West holds a winner in Diamonds. We must, therefore, play the Diamond from Dummy toward the West hand. West will then be forced to play a Spade to Declarer's Ace-Queen. West will have been end-played allowing Declarer to make his/her contract.