

BID AND PLAY ANALYSIS**Hand 1 Dealer South****Maintaining a Stop****NORTH**

♠ K,4,2
 ♥ 8,7,2
 ♦ A,9,8,5
 ♣ A,T,2

EAST

♠ J,9,7,6
 ♥ J,9
 ♦ K,3,2
 ♣ J,6,5,4

WEST

♠ T,8,5
 ♥ A,T,6,5,4
 ♦ 7,4
 ♣ Q,8,7

SOUTH

♠ A,Q,3
 ♥ K,Q,3
 ♦ Q,J,T,6
 ♣ K,9,3

Bidding: The bidding is one NT by South and three No Trump by North.

Play Analysis: West leads his fourth best heart and south has an immediate decision when east covers with the jack. South knows very likely the ace, ten of hearts is in west's hand and that will sit over his queen small if he takes the first trick. Worse, to bring the diamond suit home he must finesse toward East. He can solve his dilemma by letting east hold the first heart. East will continue a heart and south plays high. Now even if the diamond finesse loses east has either no more hearts to return or the hearts split 4/3.