

Dummy

♠875

♥873

♦A

♣AJ10975

You

♠Q92

♥QJ42

♦Q986

♣K3

I was defender on this hand which I played recently, and missed the key defensive play which allows us to beat the contract.

The opponents are in 3NT. I led a diamond.

Can you figure out the key defensive play that allows your side to defeat the contract?

Send your answers to me: billpuzzles@bridgesights.com

The Answer

Dummy

♠875
♥873
♦A
♣AJ10975

You

♠Q92
♥QJ42
♦Q986
♣K3

Partner

♠K1064
♥106
♦J1054
♣Q62

Declarer

♠AJ3
♥AK95
♦K732
♣84

The opponents are in 3NT and you lead a low diamond.

The key to the hand is dummy's club suit, which is potentially a large source of tricks for declarer. It looks like declarer will get 5 or 6 club tricks. Your main hope is that partner holds at least 3 clubs to the Q.

Declarer wins the diamond ace and plays a heart to the ace. He now leads the 4 of clubs. You must play the K of clubs on this trick. This effectively disrupts declarer's communication with dummy. If declarer wins the ace of clubs, that is the last time he will be able to get to dummy. Since the only way to make 3NT is to take at least 4 club tricks, his best hope is that you started with both the K and Q of clubs. Therefore, he should duck and try to finesse your Q the next time clubs are played. However, since partner has the Q, this play does not work, and 3NT goes down several tricks.