

Four Stars Swiss Teams – part 2

By Frances Hinden & Jeffrey Allerton

How do you play A9743 opposite J2 for two tricks? If you haven't seen the position before it may not be obvious, but this combination is called an "intrafinesse". You can pick up K10 or Q10 over the ace by leading towards the Jack.

Board 9 from the afternoon session should have been a good example.

Board 9 ♠ T
Dealer N ♥ A9743
EW Game ♦ AKQJ
 ♣ K32

♠ KQ9	♠ A542
♥ T865	♥ KQ
♦ T9743	♦ 8
♣ T	♣ J98754

 ♠ J8763
 ♥ J2
 ♦ 652
 ♣ AQ6

N	E	S	W
1♥	2♣	X	P
3♦	P	3NT	P
P	P		

On the ten of clubs lead, it looks likely that East has short hearts, so I felt hopeful as declarer when I won in dummy and played a heart. East won the King and played another club. I now ran the jack of hearts from hand which really ought to have pinned K10 doubleton in East but sadly didn't this time. If East had held K8 doubleton they would have had to cash three spades to beat it after I knocked out the heart.

That was flat in 3NT-1. The next board was more successful:

Board 10 ♠ A7543
 Dealer E ♥ AQ4
 Game all ♦ 2
 ♣ 9632

♠ QJ9	♠ T62
♥ 98	♥ 76532
♦ JT74	♦ 93
♣ AKQ8	♣ J74

♠ K8
 ♥ KJT
 ♦ AKQ865
 ♣ T5

N	E	S	W
	P	1NT	P
2♥	P	2♠	P
3♣	P	3NT	P
P	P		

West thought for a while and led the ♦J, which held(!). He tried a top club but couldn't read East's card as encouraging. After more thought, he played another diamond and declarer had nine tricks. Bridge is much easier when you can see all four hands! At the other table, playing weak NT, South opened 1♦ and rebid so game was never going to make. The South hand is if anything a bit good for a strong NT but keeping the hand concealed is often worth a slight perversion.