

How to get 13 tricks in NT on Board 23 from Tuesday 13/03/2018

No it doesn't rely on bad defence, It's actually possible to get 13 tricks even when the opponents defend perfectly. The extra tricks come from making 4 heart tricks and squeezing N who has to find 5 discards when you run your red suits.

QS is the correct lead, take it with the K and play AH. Now you have to believe that N only has one heart when he plays the 10, which is a wild assumption. So cross to dummy with a diamond to AD and run the 9H. South is stuffed. if he ducks, you play low, if he covers, he's set up the 8 so either way you make 4 heart tricks.

But look what's happening to N, he has to find 3 discards. He has to protect the clubs so he should toss 3 spades. But now declarer runs his next 3 diamonds and this is when N throws in the towel because he had to find 2 more discards and now he can't protect his winning spade and his JC so declarer makes either 3 spades and 2 clubs or visaversa.

So making 13 hinges on the play of the heart suit. If you just play normally and run 4 diamond tricks and then attack the hearts, you will only make 12 if N misdefends by tossing a club. If he tosses spades instead, you can only make 11.

No one got the declarer play right because it required a play that was against the odds.

Cheers