

For a Future LSBC Newsletter and Corner

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A classic unblocking play to make my contract.

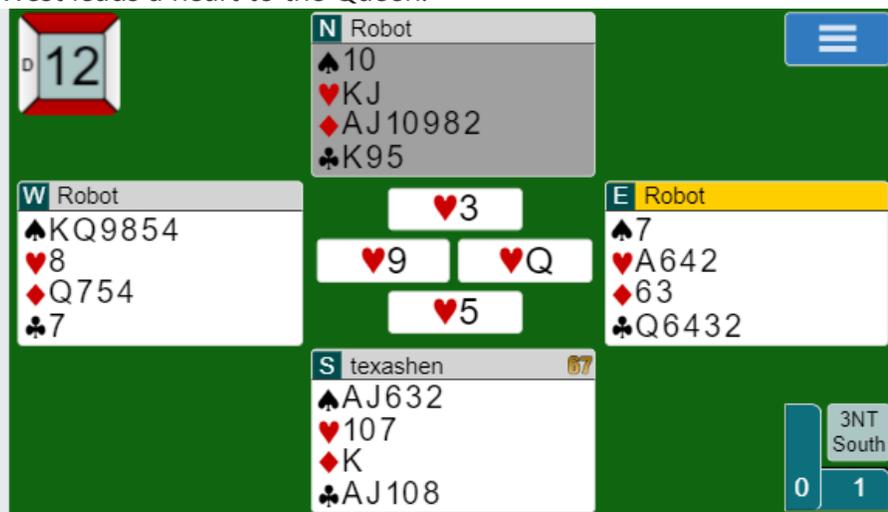


W 2S (weak)

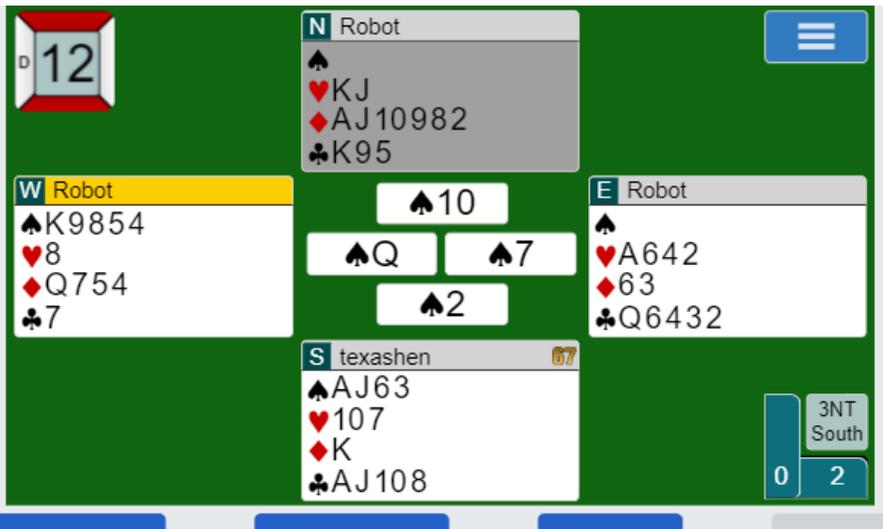
N 3D (Good 5+ card diamond suit and an opener)

S 3NT (We're going to game with this hand opposite an opener and it's not going to be in diamonds or spades. Notrump looks like the place)

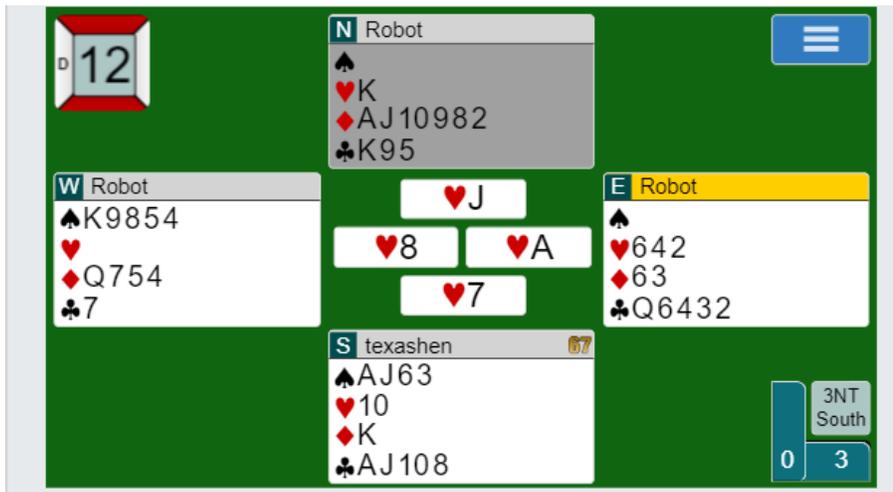
West leads a heart to the Queen.



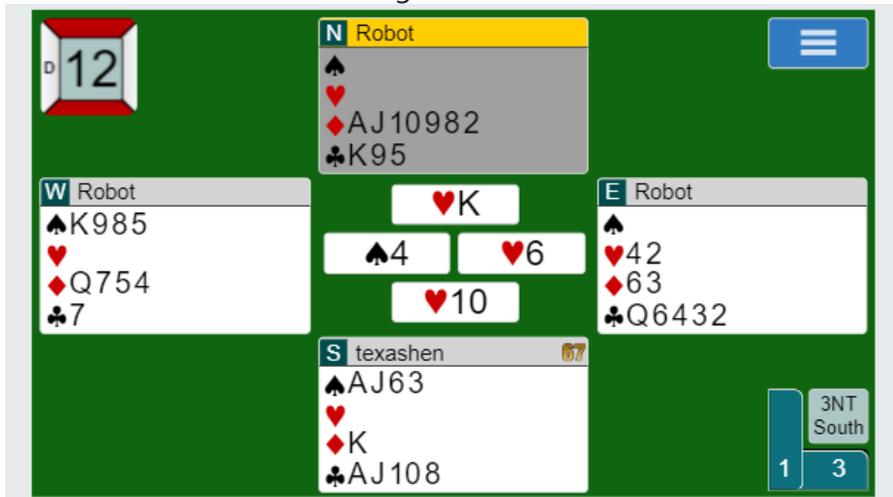
East returns a spade to the Queen.



East returns a heart to the Ace.



East returns a heart to the King.



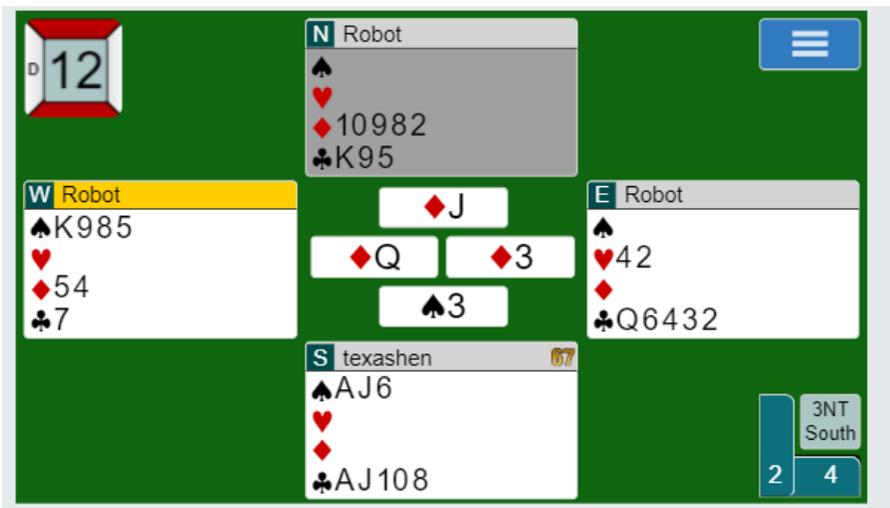
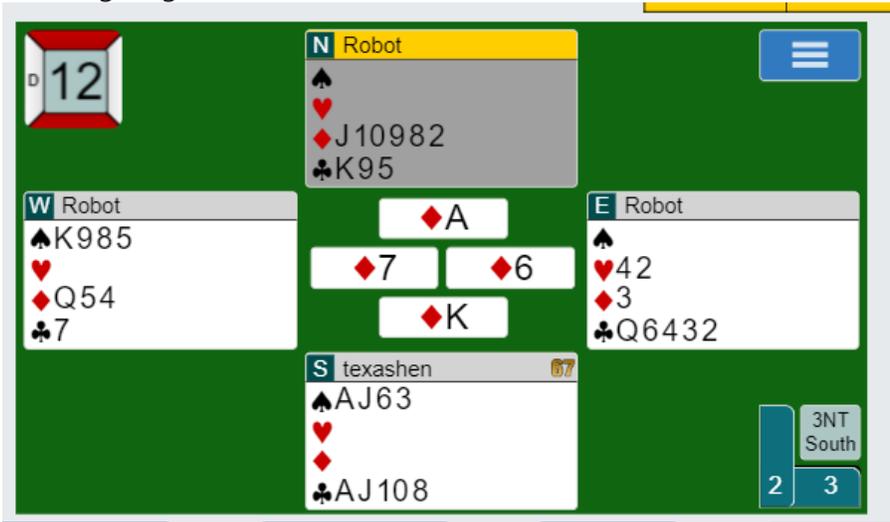
My only chance to make this is to set up the diamonds, otherwise I have too many spade losers.

I could play a diamond to the Queen and a club to the King and hope the Queen of diamonds is doubleton and will drop under the ace. That'll work about 1/3 of the time.

I have a better play though.

I can play West for the Queen of diamonds. If East has it, I know East has no more hearts to play and I'm home. That's about a 50% shot.

So, I play the ace of diamonds to unblock my king and then play the Jack of diamonds to West's Queen giving the defense its 4th and last trick.



West returns the 9 of spades, but it doesn't matter. Dummy is good when I pitch the losing club on the ace of spades.

