



Dealer: E		♠	9	Vul: E-W	
		♥	KQJ4		
		♦	AQ962		
		♣	AK7		
♠	AJT432	↑ ¹⁹ ← ¹⁰ 7→ ↓ ⁴		♠	Q6
♥	A652			♥	873
♦	J			♦	K85
♣	65			♣	QT943
		♠	K875		
		♥	T9		
		♦	T743		
		♣	J82		

PLAY THIS HAND WITH JERRY

Bidding Sequence→	P --- P --- 2 ♠
	X ---- P -- 2N -- P
	3N -- P -- P ---- P

After a weak 2 and a takeout X, a 2N response is called *Lebensohl* and it asks partner to bid 3♣ where upon you bid a suit and this shows a hand that is less than 8 points and is thus a sign-off. In this case North is too strong to do this so he hopes that South is not totally broke and that there is a spade stopper. As it is, I didn't like what I was going to do if he had bid 3♣, I would say 3♦, but he just said 3N and there I was.

West led the J♠ and I let it hold. I knew East had only 2 ♠s to start, West continued with a low ♠ and I let East's Q hold which killed their ability to run his suit. East led a ♥ to West's A and I unblocked the J♥. West continued ♥s and I won in my hand with the 10 and I led a low ♦ to the J and the Q, East winning his K and he continued ♥s. I then cashed the ♦s and 1 more ♥ and 2 ♣s making 3 for 98%.

I suppose someone could write an entire article about how the defense should have started: i.e. Should West start with a low ♠ so his suit doesn't get blocked. Should East have played the Q♠ at trick 1? This surely would have set me because the best I can do is duck it and a ♠ continuation allows them to take at least 5 ♠ tricks and the K♦ as well as the A♥. This would have been a very poor result.

This just shows that there is some luck in this wonderful game!!!

By Jerry Weitzer – jweitzner@sbcglobal.net (June 2026)