Board 29
North Deals
None Vul

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                        ♠ Q 9
                        ♥ Q 10 7 2
                        ♦ 10 7 5
                        ♣ J 6 5 3
        ♠ A 8 5 3                       ♠ K 7
        ♥ K 9 3                         ♥ A 8 6 4
        ♦ 8 4 3                         ♦ K J 2
        ♣ K Q 7                         ♣ A 8 4 2
                        ♠ J 10 6 4 2
                        ♥ J 5
                        ♦ A Q 9 6
                        ♣ 10 9
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EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 3♣; EW 2♦

West	North	East	South
Dick Lee	*Bob Gorsey*	*Pete*	*Sue Ostrowski*
	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

3 NT by East

After planning the play I ducked the opening lead of the ♠7 smoothly in hand. (At the time, I felt I would need a diamond trick - my mistake.) After some thought, Bob returned the ♠9. I ducked the ♥9 into Bob's hand - not knowing the ♥10 and ♥Q were equivalent, he won the ♥10.

Bob's return of a diamond went to the ♦J and ♦Q. Sue thought a long time before returning to the ♠J, from which I deduced she held the ♦A; I won the ♠A and dumped a diamond. Cashing the ♣K and ♣Q, I noted the fall of the ♣10 and ♣9. When Bob followed to a third club, I was in a *restricted choice* situation: when an opponent plays one or more equivalent cards, the odds favor that she has no or restricted choice in the play. In other words, that the other opponent has the missing such card. I went with the odds, and finessed.

The fourth club followed, pitching a spade from dummy. Now the ♥A, got the ♥J on my left. Since Bob's earlier play was not a choice, when Bob followed low to the third heart, restricted choice applied once again to Sue's hand. The heart finesse brought home nine tricks, losing a heart, a spade, a diamond, and the ♦A at the end.

These are not the garden-variety restricted choice play, nine cards missing KQxx, but seven cards missing three equivalent cards. Each time, a finesse of the 8 was technically correct, and won. The odds were improved by the known 5-card suit and likely diamond length in the South hand.

For a better explanation of restricted choice and more references, please see my article, *Bridge Scoring, Strategy and Tactics,* at http://web.mit.edu/mitdlbc/www/contrib.html#Articles.

- Pete Matthews