

## Witness for the Defenceless – Part 4

This column reports on some misdefences observed at the Ajijic Sectional Tournament in February 2014.

♠ 1053 ♥ AJ6 ♦ KQ43 ♣ Q54		Vulnerable: North South Dealer: North
♠ KQJ64 ♥ K32 ♦ A10 ♣ J97		Bidding: North East South West 1 ♦ Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♠ 3 ♣ Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass
♠ A97 ♥ Q7 ♦ 985 ♣ AK1062		Opening Lead: ♠ King

South bid 3 no trump more in hope than expectation that he could somehow manufacture 9 tricks. When the dummy came down he could only count a likely 8 tricks: 5 clubs (if the opponents' clubs divided 3-2 or the jack was singleton), 2 hearts and one spade. Based on the bidding West almost certainly held the diamond ace so if declarer tried to sneak a diamond trick, West would pounce with his ace and cash his spades for one down.

Declarer figured his best bet was a misdefence and that is what he got. He won the second spade and cashed the club ace. This is a safety play in case West has a singleton club and will show out on the next round. Needing to keep communications open with his hand in clubs, declarer now laid down the heart queen and held his breath as West and then East followed low. When he next played his small heart to the jack and that also won he was now home free if the clubs behaved, which they did.

West erred in not covering the heart queen with the king. This would have held declarer to two heart tricks and only eight in all, thereby defeating the contract. Covering the queen was a no-lose play. Either South held the 10 and could not be prevented from scoring three tricks or East held that card and covering would promote it into a winner for the defenders.

♠ 7432 ♥ A5 ♦ 32 ♣ AJ1032		Vulnerable:	North South	
		Dealer:	South	
		Bidding:		
♠ 10985 ♥ QJ ♦ AK875 ♣ 54	♠ Q6 ♥ 1086432 ♦ Q94 ♣ 97	North	East	South West
				1 NT Pass
		2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦ DBL
		3 ♣	Pass	3 NT Pass
		Pass	Pass	
♠ AKJ ♥ K97 ♦ J106 ♣ KQ86		Opening Lead: ♦ Ace		

South opened a standard 15-17 high card point 1 no trump, West passed and North bid 2 clubs, Stayman. East passed and South bid 2 diamonds denying a four card major. West doubled which is usually a lead-directing bid but somewhat futile here as West was likely to be on lead! North now bid 3 clubs showing at least 5 clubs and game-going values. Hoping for a partial diamond stopper at least from his partner, South gambled with a bid of 3 no trump.

West led the diamond ace and when the dummy came down South could see that his contract was in peril if West had five or more diamonds. In third seat, East played the four which in their system was encouraging but West feared the suit would block or that the four was singleton so he switched to the heart queen! A grateful South quickly ran for home and even got a bonus overtrick when East's spade queen dropped on the second round of that suit.

With a holding such as West's, with no outside entry, the best lead is a low diamond. This would have worked fine here as partner held the queen and two others but it would also have been successful had East held doubleton queen. It would also have worked even if it gave an immediate trick to declarer if East had an entry and could return a diamond when he got in.

As it was, North South got a very good score for their risky bidding and West's misdefence.