



Defensive Tips for Intermediates

Part I



Mental modelling the Concealed Hands

Here is a hand involving a high level pre-empt where you need to think about the best possible defence and act on it quickly.

Dir: West
Vul: None

	NORTH		♠ K Q 9 7 4
WEST	24	EAST	♥ J 3
	SOUTH		♦ K J 3
			♣ 9 7 2

♠ A J 10 3
♥ A 10 9 8 4 2
♦ --
♣ K Q 3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	3	-	5	2	-
S	3	-	5	2	-
E	-	3	-	-	-
W	-	3	-	-	-

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
4D	P	5D	Double

(you), Passed out.

Partner (North) leads K♥,
declarer plays 3♥ from
dummy.

How do you continue?

Mental Modelling contd

- You can expect to make one or two heart tricks, a spade trick and a club trick or two, anywhere from three to five tricks. Declarer should have 8 diamond tricks and possibly a spade trick. If partner has K♥ and Q♥ as indicated by the lead you might have made 10 tricks in hearts so you need to beat this by two tricks if you can and hold declarer to 9 tricks.
- An extra heart trick can wait. You need to attack the clubs while you still have the A♠. Overtake the K♥ with the A♥ and play K♣.

Mental Modelling contd

The full set of hands follows:

Dir: West
Vul: None

♠ 8 6 2
♥ K Q 7 6
♦ 9 2
♣ J 10 8 6

NORTH
WEST
24
EAST
SOUTH

♠ 5
♥ 5
♦ A Q 10 8 7 6 5 4
♣ A 5 4

♠ K Q 9 7 4
♥ J 3
♦ K J 3
♣ 9 7 2

6

10

10

14

♠ A J 10 3
♥ A 10 9 8 4 2
♦ --
♣ K Q 3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	3	-	5	2	-
S	3	-	5	2	-
E	-	3	-	-	-
W	-	3	-	-	-

Board No 24 None Vul Dealer West									
-									
NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	3	4♥	S	♦8	11	450		14	
2	5	5♦	W	♥K	10	50		3	11
3	7	5♦	W	♥K	10	50		3	11
4	9	5♦*	W	♥6	10	100		9	5
6	4	5♦	W	♥K	9	100		9	5
7	6	6♦*	W	♥K	10	300		12	2
8	8	5♦	W	♥K	10	50		3	11
9	1	5♦	W	♥K	10	50		3	11

You will win a spade trick, a heart trick and two clubs, two down doubled for 300. Note that only one declarer hazarded and succeeded in a heart contract and all but one declarer in diamonds made at least 10 tricks.

Do you think they went to sleep when partner led the K♥?

Mental Modelling contd - Hand 2

This hand is slightly modified from a weak jump lesson taught to beginners on a Friday morning.

Dealer: South,
East/West
vulnerable

Bidding: 1C, 2S
passed out.

Dummy

♠ 73

♥ K982

♦ A873

♣ QJ10

You

♠ 108

♥ AJ105

♦ KJ4

♣ A962

Partner leads 9♠ which declarer wins with Q♠ drawing two further rounds with A♠ and K♠, dummy discards a diamond and you discard a heart. Declarer now leads a club to the 10♣ and your A♣. *How do you continue?*

Mental Modelling - Hand 2 contd

After the first three rounds you know every honour card remaining in partner's hand, viz Q♥, Q♦ and K♣.

You lead K♦ to drive out the A♦ entry in the dummy. If declarer ducks you follow with the J♦. If declarer ducks again you lead your third diamond. Declarer can now lead a club to partner's K♣ to set a club trick up but partner can now lead hearts to enable six tricks for the defence first.

If declarer wins the second diamond because they only hold a doubleton, the contract can still be defeated as long as partner either leads the Q♥ when on lead with K♣ or interposes the Q♥ if declarer trumps a diamond back to hand and leads a small heart towards dummy.

This is one of the situations where the defender in second hand is required to play high in this case to avoid partner being end-played and forced to give declarer a heart trick or club trick.

This example required the defenders to “count the hand” in order to find best defence.

	Dummy
	♠--
	♥K982
	♦A87
	♣QJ
You	
	♠--
	♥AJ10
	♦KJ4
	♣962

Mental Modelling - Hand 2 contd

These are the full set of hands:

Partner

♠ 964

♥ Q6

♦ Q962

♣ K873

Declarer

♠ AKQJ52

♥ 743

♦ 105

♣ 54

Dummy

♠ 73

♥ K982

♦ A873

♣ QJ10

You

♠ 108

♥ AJ105

♦ KJ4

♣ A962

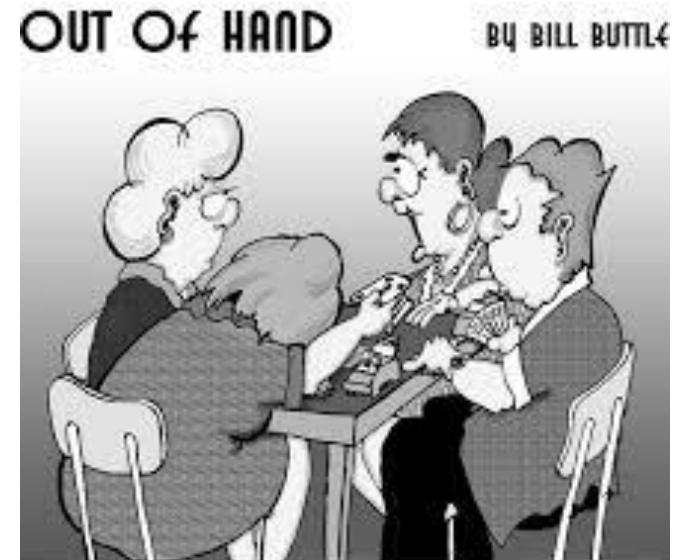
Trying to mental model the concealed hands is difficult and hard work but is the route to advanced bridge play.

Leads

Making a good lead is probably the most difficult part of bridge!

Leads can make or break contracts, yet the defender on lead has no information on the layout of the cards other than what she can see in her own hand and the bidding.

The more bidding, the better for the defender on lead in order to make up her mind, providing it is genuine bidding and that doesn't happen all the time either. Let us start with leads against NT contracts because that is normally a simpler matter.



" Our bridge teacher says you're to make the opening lead face down! "

Opening Leads Against NT Contracts

Guidelines:

- The aim of the defence is to set up tricks in their long suit before declarer sets up tricks in his.
- This means that the defender making the opening lead will normally lead from his long suit **unless**
 - ❖ his partner has overcalled a different suit
 - ❖ the opposition have bid his suit
 - ❖ he has a weak hand lacking entries.
- If partner has not bid his long suit is likely the shortest of your suits that have not been bid.
- From your own long suit lead
 - ❖ the highest (or second highest) from three cards in sequence provided that it is an honour (eg J 10 9) and also from two cards in a broken sequence (eg Q J 9)
 - ❖ the fourth highest (or third highest) if the suit is headed by one or more honours not in sequence.
 - ❖ the second highest if your suit has no honour.
- When leading from a three card holding in a suit (hopefully partners)
 - ❖ lead your top honour from a sequence of two (eg J 10 5)
 - ❖ lead your smallest card when your suit has one or two honours not in sequence
 - ❖ lead middle up down (MUD) otherwise
- When leading from a two card holding (doubleton)
 - ❖ lead your highest card first.

The Rule of Eleven

The Rule of Eleven can prove useful when you believe your partner has led their fourth highest.

Dealer: West

Bidding:

W	N	E(you)	S
1D*	1H	2D	2NT

Passed out.

* = Short club

Lead: 5♦

Dummy plays 7♦.

What do you play?

Dummy

♠ Q104

♥ QJ1085

♦ Q7

♣ K93

You

♠ J82

♥ 963

♦ K1082

♣ J108

The Rule of Eleven contd

The Rule of Eleven states that (assuming a fourth highest card has been led) you subtract the value of the card led from eleven, and that is the number of outstanding cards higher than that value. So by subtracting the number of cards you see in dummy and your hand higher than that card, you can deduce how many are in declarer's hand.

On the hand above, declarer has one card higher than the 5♦ and that should be the A♦ based on the bidding. You could play the 10♦ or even better the 8♦ with confidence. Declarer can win immediately or duck for one or two rounds, then play A♥ and another to set that suit up but without a double diamond stop will struggle to make 8 tricks.



Rule of Eleven contd

Here is the full set of hands:

Dummy

♠ Q104

♥ QJ1085

♦ Q7

♣ K93

Partner

♠ A97

♥ K72

♦ J965

♣ A42

You

♠ J82

♥ 963

♦ K1082

♣ J108

Declarer

♠ K653

♥ A4

♦ A43

♣ Q765

Opening Leads against Trump Contracts:

With no indication from the bidding, the following leads have been ranked from best to worst :
(source: "Murder at the Bridge Table" Granovetter)

HOLDING	CARD TO LEAD
AKx (x...)	The Ace(top of a sequence). Note: Lead the King from AK doubleton.
A non-trump singleton	Only if you have useful trumps that wouldn't otherwise have won tricks.
KQx (x...)	The King
QJx(x---)	The Queen
J10x(x...)	The Jack
109(x...)	The Ten
xx	The higher x
xxx(or longer)	From three small lead middle-up-down (MUD). This allows partner to differentiate from a doubleton lead. From four small lead the second highest then follow with the next highest. From five or more small, lead fourth highest,
Weak trumps	Any, if they end up in a contract that wasn't their first choice.
Kx, Qx, Jx,10x (all or longer)	If you have only two, start with the higher card. With three lead the lowest. With more, lead fourth highest.
A singleton trump	
Ax (x---) *	Only one better than underleading the A from this combination.

- Against a slam, the lead of an unsupported Ace is more attractive.
- A lead in partner's bid suit ranks nearly as high as the most favoured leads above.
- The lead of an unbid suit (especially an unbid major) usually helps the defence.

Opening Leads against Trump Contracts

What do you lead as West in this 4H contract?

Dir: West
Vul: N/S

♠ Q 9 4
♥ 9
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ Q J 8 6 3

WEST 28 EAST

NORTH SOUTH

Bidding:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1H
Pass	3H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

Opening Leads Against Trump Contracts contd

The full set of hands follows. You will note that only 1/7 defenders who led the right suit, clubs, managed to lead the Q♣, resulting in 4H being made on three occasions. It seems that many of us need to study the preceding table and commit it to memory!

Dir: West
Vul: N/S

♠ K 8 3
♥ K 10 6 2
♦ J 8 6
♣ K 10 4

♠ Q 9 4
♥ 9
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ Q J 8 6 3

NORTH
WEST
28
EAST
SOUTH

♠ J 10 7 6
♥ Q 5
♦ Q 10 5
♣ A 9 7 2

	10	
8		9
	13	

♠ A 5 2
♥ A J 8 7 4 3
♦ A 3 2
♣ 5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	3	-	3
S	-	-	3	-	3
E	2	-	-	-	-
W	2	-	-	-	-

Board No 28 N/S Vul Dealer West									
-									
NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	2	4♥	S	♣Q	9		100	2	16
2	4	4♥	S	♦4	10	620		14	4
3	6	Pass						6	12
4	8	4♥	S	♣6	9		100	2	16
5	10	3♥	S	♣8	9	140		8	10
6	3	4♥	S	♣6	10	620		14	4
7	5	4♥	S	♣6	9		100	2	16
8	7	4♥	S	♣6	10	620		14	4
9	9	4♥	S	♣6	10	620		14	4
10	1	4♥	S	♦4	10	620		14	4

Opening Leads against Trump Contracts (useful information available)

Declarer is in a trump contract because she hopes to make extra tricks by ruffing or she needs to be able to ruff to maintain control because she is weak in one or more of the off-suits.

Leading a trump can often reduce declarer's ability to make an extra trick but can sometimes cost a trick by finessing partner. The following trump combinations are stated to carry the least risk when led:

J10, 10x, xx, Axx, Kxx, xxx, Axxx, Kxxx, Jxxx, xxxx

There are many exceptions to leading a trump.

- the leader has a side suit singleton
- partner has a short suit
- dummy lacks trumps
- dummy has indicated a long strong side suit before agreeing upon trumps
- the leader has a good trump suit which will take tricks without having to ruff
- the leader has an unsuitable trump holding to lead from.
- partner's bid suit sounds more attractive

Opening Leads Against Trump Contracts contd

	NORTH	
WEST	11	EAST
	SOUTH	

♠ 9 8 5
♥ A J 10 8 6 5
♦ A 8 5
♣ 2

Bidding:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
2H	Pass	Pass	3C

Passed Out

or

2D	Pass	2H*	3C
----	------	-----	----

Passed out

*pass or correct.

What do you lead?

What information do you have? Rather limited, it's true, but you should be able to place your partner with about 7HCPs-10HCPs or else the opponents might have bid on or your partner may have raised your 2H opener to 3H (or bid 3H searching for your major if you opened 2D).

Opening Leads Against Trump Contracts contd

Given this and the assumption partner possibly has only one defensive trick based on this HCP count and you probably have two, prospects look pretty dim.

It might be time to be aggressive and the only hope is that you can give partner a heart ruff or even two.

You lead the A♥ and continue with another, knowing that this will only give away a trick if declarer has the K♥ and partner more than one heart.

Your second heart should be your lowest calling for a diamond return (see signals later) if partner can ruff although this would be bleedingly obvious to partner, as the only chance, anyway.

Opening Leads Against Trump Contracts contd

Here are all the hands which also indicate 3 declarers made 10 tricks in clubs on the three occasions when the A♥ was not led.

Dir: South
Vul: None

♠ K J 4 3
♥ 2
♦ Q J 9 4 3 2
♣ J 4

NORTH

11

SOUTH

♠ 7 2
♥ K 9 4
♦ 10 6
♣ A K Q 9 8 6

♠ A Q 10 6
♥ Q 7 3
♦ K 7
♣ 10 7 5 3

♠ 9 8 5
♥ A J 10 8 6 5
♦ A 8 5
♣ 2

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	3	2	1	-
S	-	3	2	1	-
E	2	-	-	-	2
W	2	-	-	-	2

8	
11	12
9	

Board No 11 None Vul Dealer South									
-									
NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	7	4♥	E	♥A	8	100		11	3
2	9	2♥	N	♣A	8	110		14	
3	2	3♣	E	♣2	10		130	1	13
4	4	3♣	E	♠9	10		130	1	13
5	6	5♣	E	♠5	10	50		6	8
6	8	4♣	E	♥A	8	100		11	3
7	1	3♣	E	♥A	8	50		6	8
8	3	5♣	E	♥A	10	50		6	8

You may recall that leading an unsupported A in a side suit against a trump contract (beneath a slam) is the second least recommended after underleading from an A in a side suit. However, as with all bridge, there are exceptions to the rule and that is it is called for when tricks need to be taken quickly.

The Joke's On Me!

Trying to practice what I preach at Nowra the other day, I held this hand with the following bidding:

Dir: West
Vul: N/S

♠ A
♥ A 10 7 5 3
♦ Q 10 7 3
♣ 9 4 2

NORTH
WEST 12 EAST
SOUTH

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT (15-18)
Pass	2H (transfer)	Pass	2S
Pass	3NT	Pass	4S

Passed Out

What should I lead?

Partner can't hold more than 5HCPs so may not have a defensive trick. I have two and possibly three if the Q♦ proves useful. A club lead would be passive, a diamond lead active but with some risk.

What about the A♥, against the book but might work if partner has a singleton or doubleton heart since I have a quick entry in trumps. If I get my partner a ruff or two by getting in two or three rounds of hearts that may be good. North has advised a flattish hand by bidding 3NT so may have three hearts. *What would you lead??* I led A♥ which turned out to be a disaster .



The Joke's On Me! contd

Dir: West
Vul: N/S

♠ J 10 6 5 3

♥ K 8

♦ A 6

♣ J 8 7 3

♠ A

♥ A 10 7 5 3

♦ Q 10 7 3

♣ 9 4 2

NORTH
WEST
12
EAST
SOUTH

♠ 9 8 7

♥ J 9 4

♦ K 9 8 5 2

♣ Q 5

	9	
10		8
	15	

♠ K Q 4 2

♥ Q 6 2

♦ J 4

♣ A K 10 6

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	4	-	-	4	1
S	4	-	-	4	1
E	-	2	3	-	-
W	-	2	3	-	-

Leading unsupported Aces if partner has not bid the suit can be high risk, but more acceptable against a slam.

Signals to Partner's Lead



- High or Low encourage
- Natural or reverse count
- McKenney suit preference

If you do choose to signal to your partner's lead, the system you use is very much a matter of partnership agreement.

When bidding system cards are required the signals being used must be stated.

Playing a high card is a traditional way of encouraging suit continuance while playing a low card is more modern and is probably intended to be less obvious as well as preserve more useful cards.

Playing a higher card and later a lower card (petering) to indicate an even number of cards is also traditional and reverse count, intended to do the same, is probably just to make life more difficult for declarer if she doesn't remember.

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

Dir: East
Vul: E/W

♠ 9 5
♥ 9 4
♦ J 10 5
♣ A Q 7 6 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST
	6	
	SOUTH	

♠ Q J 8
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ A 7
♣ K J 5 3

Bidding:

<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>
1S	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2H
Passed Out			

Lead: A♠ (shows A and K)

As West, what card do you play?

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

If you are playing natural count, you play the 9♠.

If this is not your only spade (singleton), this higher card is the start of a high/low sequence showing an even number, normally two in a trump contract.

You can't have 4 x spades or you would have raised partner's suit.

You would probably have raised on three as well!.... so the play of the 9♠ is just to confirm.

Partner continues with the A♠ and gives you a ruff.

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

Dlr: East
Vul: E/W

♠ 7 4 3
♥ A Q 10 8
♦ Q 9 6 3 2
♣ 9

♠ 9 5
♥ 9 4
♦ J 10 5
♣ A Q 7 6 4 2

	NORTH	
WEST	6	EAST
	SOUTH	

♠ A K 10 6 2
♥ K J 2
♦ K 8 4
♣ 10 8

	8	
7		14
	11	

♠ Q J 8
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ A 7
♣ K J 5 3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	2	1	3	2
W	4	2	1	3	2

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

McKenney suit preference signals can be used very powerfully in special circumstances when following to partner's lead.

Dealer: South. Nil Vul
Bidding:
1S, 2NT (unusual), 4S, 5C,
Pass, Pass, 5S, All Pass

♠ J82

♥ AQ762

♦ A432

♣ J

♠ 765

♥ J984

♦ K

♣ Q8532

West (partner) leads the K♣. *What card do you play?*

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

You must give West a signal so as not to switch to the wrong suit.

A trump switch could be too passive and allow declarer time to set up the heart suit while an immediate heart switch could be disastrous.

McKenney suit preference signals are very powerful in this situation. An unnecessarily high card like the Q♣ would call for the higher of the other two suits apart from trumps to be played while an unnecessarily low card like the 2♣ would call for a diamond.

You should play the 2♣ in this case. Partner then switches to the 7♦.

If declarer plays the A♦ with the expectation of winning 5 x spades, 4 or 5 x hearts and a club ruff along with the A♦ making 11 or 12 in all, she will be sorely disappointed when the hearts don't break and the diamond entry has gone.

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

This is the full set of hands:

A less greedy declarer may recognise that you have only one diamond, probably the singleton Q or K and you will be unable to continue the suit to take out the entry if you win the diamond lead.

♠J82

♥AQ762

♦A432

♣J

♠103

♥3

♦Q10876

♣AK974

♠765

♥J984

♦K

♣Q8532

♠AKQ94

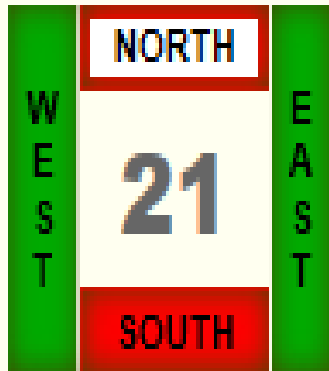
♥K105

♦J95

♣106

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

♠ Q 8
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ Q J 7 4 2
♣ J 3



♠ 9 5 4
♥ 7 2
♦ A 9 5
♣ K Q 9 8 6

Bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Pass	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2H	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	Passed
Out			

Lead: 10♦. (you play MUD leads with three). Declarer plays J♦ from dummy.

What do you play?

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

Partner does not have the K♦ based on her lead. She either has a singleton or doubleton diamond.

She is not leading from any sort of sequence since you hold the 9♦. South bid 2H rather than jump to 3H when North limited her hand by bidding 1NT so South probably has less than 16HCPs. This means partner could have 7 or 8HCPs with possible tricks in spades, hearts or A♣. Declarer has one club at most.

Playing the A♦ and returning a diamond works if declarer has four diamonds and a void club and your partner has a singleton but simply sets up the diamond suit if she has three diamonds and a singleton club and your partner has a doubleton diamond.

It is a guess but McKenney suit preference could still save you if you get it wrong. Play the A♦ and return your lowest diamond asking for a club when partner gets in.

Signals to Partner's Lead contd

Here is the full set of hands. Partner had a doubleton diamond and you should have held up one round and given partner a ruff when they next lead a diamond after getting in with A♥.... but if you are playing McKenney suit preference in a ruffing situation partner may well underlead the A♣ to put you in, in order for you to pay a third diamond to give her a ruff, resulting in declarer making only 9 tricks and going one down. This board was played on 21/8/17 and 5/7 declarers made 10 tricks at least in hearts. 10♦ was led on 4/7 occasions.

Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

♠ Q 8
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ Q J 7 4 2
♣ J 3

NORTH

21

SOUTH

♠ 9 5 4
♥ 7 2
♦ A 9 5
♣ K Q 9 8 6

♠ 7 6 2
♥ A 10 6
♦ 10 6
♣ A 7 5 4 2

♠ A K J 10 3
♥ K 8 4 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ 10

9

8 9

14

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	3	3	4	-
S	-	3	3	4	-
E	2	-	-	-	1
W	2	-	-	-	1

Board No 21 N/S Vul Dealer North									
-									
NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	4	2♠	S	♣A	10	170		4	10
2	6	3♥	N	♦10	9	140		2	12
3	8	3♥	S	♣A	8		100		14
4	1	2♥	S	♦10	11	200		6	8
5	3	4♥	S	♦10	10	620		10	4
6	5	4♥	S	♠7	10	620		10	4
7	7	4♥	S	♦10	11	650		14	
8	9	4♥	S	♣A	10	620		10	4

Defensive Signals During Play:

(a) First Discard:

A commonly used signal is made by a defender when she makes her first discard. This can be useful but it is a two-edged sword because declarer can also gain from the information.

My suggestion is that a defender should use this signal with discrimination, principally when there is a probability for the defence to gain more than one trick rather than to indicate some isolated trick that can often wait.

Defensive Signals During Play contd

(b) Count during play

Dir: North
Vul: E/W

♠ K Q J 9 3
♥ 8
♦ 10 6 4
♣ J 10 6 2

WEST 25 EAST

♠ 6 4
♥ J 10 6 4
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 9 7 5 3

The diagram shows a bridge hand with a score of 25. The cards are: North (♠ K Q J 9 3, ♥ 8, ♦ 10 6 4, ♣ J 10 6 2), West (♠ 6 4, ♥ J 10 6 4, ♦ 9 8 3, ♣ 9 7 5 3), and East (empty). A bidding sequence is shown to the right of the hand.

Bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Pass	2NT *	Pass	3H

(transfer)

Pass	3S	Pass	3NT
------	----	------	-----

passed out.

* = 20-22 flat

You lead your 7♣, partner plays the 4♣ and declarer wins with K♣. Declarer now leads 10♠.

What card do you play?

Defensive Signals During Play contd

There is no obvious entry to dummy. You need to give your partner count in the likely event she holds the A♠ so that she can hold up just enough times and no more.

Play 6♠ to try to show an even number of spades. It may not become clear to your partner until you play the 4♠ on the second round.

On this example, partner can work out the situation in spades easily but it does not hurt for you to lend assistance if you can.

Defensive Signals During Play contd

Here is the full set of hands. Partner will take the second spade led and lead $K \spadesuit$. Declarer now makes only 9 tricks rather than 12 if your partner had won the $A \spadesuit$ on the first round. *Can you see where declarer went wrong in only making 9 tricks instead of 10 tricks even with the hold-up, on a club lead?*

Dir: North
Vul: E/W

\spadesuit A 8 7 5
 \heartsuit 9 5 3
 \diamondsuit K Q J 2
 \clubsuit 8 4

\spadesuit K Q J 9 3
 \heartsuit 8
 \diamondsuit 10 6 4
 \clubsuit J 10 6 2

W	NORTH	E
S	25	T
T	SOUTH	E

\spadesuit 10 2
 \heartsuit A K Q 7 2
 \diamondsuit A 7 5
 \clubsuit A K Q

	10	
7		22
	1	

\spadesuit 6 4
 \heartsuit J 10 6 4
 \diamondsuit 9 8 3
 \clubsuit 9 7 5 3

	\clubsuit	\diamondsuit	\heartsuit	\spadesuit	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	2	3	6	3
W	4	2	3	6	3

Defensive Signals During Play contd

(c) Petering in Trumps

Playing high then low when following to declarer playing trumps is not normal and such defensive play can be used to signal to your partner that you have a ruffing opportunity or, alternatively, as a suit preference when and if your partner gets on lead.

