

More Defence - Revision

6/5/15

Remember:

To be successful, declarer has to make a cunning plan. The defenders must do the same. When defending, ask yourself:

- How many tricks do we need to defeat the contract?
- Based on the bidding and what you can see in dummy, how is declarer likely to play this hand?
- If partner made the opening lead, what does it tell you about his hand? Is it an unexpected lead? If so, what does that suggest?
- What else do you know about partner's hand? Did he bid? How many points might you expect him to have?
- How many tricks might you reasonably expect to make in your hand?
- What must partner hold to produce the additional tricks that our side needs to beat the contract?

Make your plan to defeat the contract

♠ T 6 5	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
♥ A K J	1♦	1♠	3♦	pass
♦ T 9 7 6	3♠	pass	4♦	pass
♣ J 9 3	5♦	pass		
(N Dummy)	♠ J 8			
Partner (W)	(E)	♥ T 8 4 2		
Lead ♠A	(You)	♦ Q 2		
		♣ 8 7 6 4 2		

Partner leads ♠A, followed by ♠K and ♠Q. How do you defend?

You **must** ruff the Queen of spades with the Queen of diamonds.

If you don't bother to ruff then declarer will just ruff, draw trumps and claim 11 tricks.

If you ruff with the two, declarer will over-ruff, draw trumps and claim 11 tricks.

By ruffing with the Queen you make declarer over-ruff with the Ace or King and so eventually partner's Jack of trumps will take the setting trick.

To alert you (if you had fallen asleep) partner could have led a small spade in place of the Queen. It should then wake you up to ruff (high, of course)

Actual full hand:

♠ T 6 5		
♥ A K J		
♦ T 9 7 6		
♣ J 9 3		
♠ A K Q 7 4 2	(N dummy)	♠ J 8
♥ 7 6 3 (W)		(E) ♥ T 8 4 2
♦ J 4 (partner)		(You) ♦ Q 2
♣ T 5	(S declarer)	♣ 8 7 6 4 2
		♠ 9 3
		♥ Q 9 5
		♦ A K 8 5 3
		♣ A K Q

♠ J 7	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
♥ K 6 4 2	1♠	X	2♠	4♥
♦ A Q 8 3	pass	pass	pass	
♣ A T 4				

♠ A K 8 6 4	(N Dummy)
♥ A 8 7	(W)
♦ 9	(You)
♣ J 9 7 5	

You lead ♠A. Partner plays ♠9. How do you defend?

Is East saying he likes spades or is it a suit preference for diamonds? What is your plan?

Here is the winning defence. Once you think of it, it isn't too hard to find.

The key is not to lose track of the bidding. If you didn't forget that partner raised spades, you will realize that the nine of spades can't be a doubleton.

The nine of spades can only be an encouraging card telling you he has the queen of spades.

Your plan therefore is (at trick two) to lead your singleton diamond and then (when you get in with the Ace of trumps) to put partner in with the queen of spades for a diamond ruff. It is best to lead the 8 of spades when you put partner in, showing you want the higher suit (diamonds and not clubs) when he gets in - but he should realise this anyway!

This is the only way to defeat this contract.

NOTE- A suit preference card is usually defined as an unusually emphatic card. If East absolutely wants a diamond shift, he has to play the queen!

NOTE- If East has QJ5, he will play the queen, which shows the jack. The queen will be interpreted as suit preference only when West can tell that East doesn't have the jack. On this hand, the jack is in the dummy so East could play the queen and be sure of getting a diamond shift if he needed one.

Actual full hand:

♠ J 7		
♥ K 6 4 2		
♦ A Q 8 3		
♣ A T 4		

♠ A K 8 6 4	(N Dummy)	♠ Q 9 5 2
♥ A 8 7(W)		(E) ♥ 3
♦ 9 (You)		♦ J T 6 5 4
♣ J 9 7 5	(S Declarer)	♣ 8 6 2

♠ T 3	
♥ Q J T 9 5	
♦ K 7 2	
♣ K Q 3	