

Signals In Defence

<p>♠A32 ♥KQJ10 ♦K65 ♣AK6</p> <p>♠J65 ♥82 ♦109743 ♣J109</p> <p>♠KQ1098 ♥A754 ♦8 ♣Q42</p> <p>♠74 ♥963 ♦AQJ2 ♣8753</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>2N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td></tr></table> <p>All pass 1 19-20</p> <p>East leads ♠K and West can reasonably assume that this lead has been made from length. On that basis West can place partner with ♠K Q 10 ... West should clarify the position by dropping ♠J. In this way East knows it's safe to continue with a second spade. This ensures the contract's defeat with the defence taking four spades and ♥A. Had West played ♠6 (a "low" card but an attempt to encourage a continuation) East would be left wondering whether North had held up the ace when holding the knave (the so-called Bath Coup). Some defensive plays are designed to <i>make life easier for partner</i> – playing ♠J here does just that.</p>	West	North	East	South		2N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3N
West	North	East	South						
	2N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3N						
<p>♠543 ♥42 ♦KQJ109 ♣543</p> <p>♠J10987 ♥Q109 ♦82 ♣Q76</p> <p>♠K6 ♥J853 ♦A43 ♣J1098</p> <p>♠AQ2 ♥AK76 ♦765 ♣AK2</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td><td>Pass</td><td>2N⁽¹⁾</td></tr></table> <p>Pass 1 19-20</p> <p>West leads a top-of-a-sequence ♠J on which East may unblock ♠K. South wins the trick and advances a diamond. With an entry-starved dummy it's important for West to give East the <i>count in the suit</i>. He does this by playing a high card from an even number, ♦8. Of course, were this card a singleton declarer would have four diamonds and declarer could always reach dummy. Here declarer continues with a second card from dummy. As East is playing partner to hold a doubleton diamond he plays low and perforce takes the third round of the suit. East has succeeded in breaking the North-South communication and declarer can only muster eight tricks – two winners in each suit. Had East taken the first or second diamond South would have two extra tricks and made an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3N	Pass	2N ⁽¹⁾
West	North	East	South						
Pass	3N	Pass	2N ⁽¹⁾						

<p>♠97 ♥932 ♦KQ82 ♣Q654</p> <p>♠K10632 ♠AQJ54 ♥QJ6 ♥84 ♦654 ♦A73 ♣109 ♣AK3</p> <p>♠8 ♥AK1075 ♦J109 ♣J872</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>South leads ♥A. With dummy threatening to build a quick heart trick, and having no interest in the suit, North plays a discouraging ♥2 (playing reverse signals, ♥9 would be played). This is an <i>attitude signal</i> informing partner whether you like the lead or not. On seeing this South can switch at trick two and playing a diamond would be normal. So ♦J appears on which North plays an encouraging ♦8 (♦2 for reverse signallers). East takes this and draws trumps, ending in hand. He must play for a defensive slip. He leads a heart. South wins but, having noted partner's earlier play, continues diamonds. The defence takes two hearts and two diamonds and the contract fails.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass								
West	North	East	South																		
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass																		
2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass																		
<p>♠KJ ♥98743 ♦72 ♣QJ94</p> <p>♠Q10963 ♠A75 ♥AK ♥2 ♦QJ ♦AK1096 ♣10765 ♣AK32</p> <p>♠842 ♥QJ1065 ♦8543 ♣8</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦⁽³⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♥⁽⁴⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 <i>Roman Key Card Blackwood</i> 2 <i>One or four of the five "aces"</i> 3 ♠Q? 4 Yes and ♥K</p> <p>North leads ♣Q on which partner performs plays ♣8, a card that seems encouraging. Declarer starts on trumps by playing ace and another spade. On these tricks South plays ♠8 followed by ♠2. By <i>petering</i> (i.e. playing high low) in the trump suit South is saying that he can ruff if North makes a suitable return. North can work out to play a club and the slam is defeated. A heart couldn't have been right (places declarer with seven hearts) and a diamond would be wrong as that would place West with (an already unlikely) six diamonds - West has failed to support partner.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♦ ⁽³⁾	Pass	5♥ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	6♠	All pass
West	North	East	South																		
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass																		
2♠	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass																		
5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♦ ⁽³⁾	Pass																		
5♥ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	6♠	All pass																		

<p>♠QJ ♥8 ♦QJ9875 ♣10987</p> <p>♠K1098 ♠A5432 ♥7643 ♥QJ105 ♦642 ♦K10 ♣KQ ♣AJ</p> <p>♠76 ♥AK92 ♦A3 ♣65432</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South cashes ♥A and can safely continue with a top heart on which North throws a minor suit card (its value not being relevant). South continues with ♥9, a high card acting as <i>suit preference</i> for the higher-ranking side suit. That means a diamond. North ruffs the heart and switches to ♦Q. South will win ♦A and can play a fourth heart for North to ruff. North cashes ♦J and that's the setting trick – two hearts, two heart ruffs and two diamonds. Plus 50 for North South. East's quite powerful hand, together with a useful dummy, has mustered but seven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All pass						
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1♠	Pass														
2♠	All pass																
<p>♠KQ109 ♥J1065 ♦KQJ ♣KQ</p> <p>♠875 ♠64 ♥2 ♥A9743 ♦952 ♦1064 ♣J98765 ♣A102</p> <p>♠AJ32 ♥KQ8 ♦A873 ♣43</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1N⁽¹⁾</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣⁽²⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 12-14 2 Stayman</p> <p>West leads ♥2. East starts to think about the length from which this card has been led. He quickly realises it must be a singleton – were it from three/four cards South would have a singleton/void respectively, a holding inconsistent with opening a balanced 1N. East has a failsafe defence. He wins ♥A and returns ♥3, the lowest known heart and a <i>suit preference signal</i> asking for the return of the lower-ranking side suit, i.e. clubs. West duly ruffs and plays back a club. East wins and the second ruff for West allows the defence to prevail. If East lazily returns a different heart at trick two, or West is not watching, West could guess to return any other suit and that would be fatal for the defence (not to say anything about partnership harmony).</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1N ⁽¹⁾														
Pass	2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♠														
Pass	4♠	All pass															

<p>♠J10987 ♥Q109 ♦76 ♣852</p> <p>♠AQ2 ♠543 ♥AK76 ♥42 ♦AKQ2 ♦543 ♣76 ♣KQJ109</p> <p>♠K6 ♥J853 ♦J1098 ♣A43</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦⁽²⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2N⁽³⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 21-22, balanced; or 8 playing tricks, unbalanced 2 Relay 3 21-22, balanced</p> <p>North leads a top-of-the sequence ♠J and West wins (South may unblock ♠K). He leads a club on which North plays ♣2. This is a <i>count signal</i>. As it is the lowest possible club South knows North has an odd number of clubs. If North has a singleton West can always reach dummy (because West will have four clubs). South should assume North has three clubs and ducks ♣9. When declarer plays a second club from dummy South can rise with ♣A. With North following to this trick South knows West <i>did</i> start with a doubleton club. Dummy's winning clubs are now dead. Declarer makes just eight tricks – two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and a club. Had South taken the ace of clubs on the first round declarer would have made eleven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2N ⁽³⁾	Pass	3N	All pass
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass														
2N ⁽³⁾	Pass	3N	All pass														
<p>♠KJ108 ♥1096 ♦87 ♣AKJ9</p> <p>♠A942 ♠763 ♥432 ♥AKQJ ♦63 ♦542 ♣10842 ♣763</p> <p>♠Q5 ♥875 ♦AKQJ109 ♣Q5</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td></tr></table> <p>All pass 1 12-14</p> <p>East cashes four rounds of hearts. On the last round West pitches ♠9, a <i>discard showing attitude</i> in the spade suit. As it's a high card it shows a liking for a spade switch (playing reverse discards, West would play ♠2 to show similar interest). East switches to a spade and the game is defeated. Any other switch sees the contract making.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3N								
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3N														