

More Defence

<p>♠Q109 ♥10752 ♦K ♣AKQJ3</p> <p>♠84 ♥J86 ♦J10972 ♣864</p> <p>♠AKJ72 ♥3 ♦Q654 ♣972</p> <p>♠653 ♥AKQ94 ♦A83 ♣105</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>1♣</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Good defence often starts with the bidding. Here East can make sure partner leads a spade by overcalling. West should lead ♠8 (top of a doubleton). This gives the defence three spade tricks immediately. From where does the setting trick come? Look what happens if East leads a fourth round of spades. If South ruffs low, West can overruff with the knave. If South ruffs high with the queen, West will now come to a natural trump trick. Well defended.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass									
West	North	East	South																		
	1♣	1♠	2♥																		
Pass	4♥	All pass																			
<p>♠AKJ984 ♥K ♦K75 ♣1053</p> <p>♠52 ♥AJ32 ♦82 ♣J9864</p> <p>♠76 ♥Q10976 ♦AQ63 ♣A2</p> <p>♠Q103 ♥854 ♦J1094 ♣KQ7</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></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>If North South play in spades East will lead a heart and West will win with ♥A. When North drops ♥K West knows it must be a singleton. There is little point continuing to play hearts. The obvious switch (with a weak dummy holding) is to ♦8 (top of a doubleton). East can cash ♦AQ and give partner a ruff. With ♣A to come that means the contract is one off. If East West play in hearts North will win the first two spades and may switch to a club. Declarer will, in practice, lose a heart and will need the finesse of ♦Q to fulfil the contract. It's also necessary to ruff two diamond losers in dummy so declarer should not play three rounds of trumps prematurely.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
		1♥	Pass																		
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass																		
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠																		
All Pass																					

<div><div><div>♠1092</div><div>♥AJ543</div><div>♦83</div><div>♣A43</div></div><div><div>♠QJ54</div><div>♥Q102</div><div>♦764</div><div>♣KJ2</div></div><div><div>♠A76</div><div>♥K97</div><div>♦KQ9</div><div>♣Q1098</div></div><div><div>♠K83</div><div>♥86</div><div>♦AJ1052</div><div>♣765</div></div></div>	<div>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1N</td><td>Pass All Pass</td></tr></table> <div>Neither South nor North has the points, or more importantly, suit quality/distribution, to overcall. Can 1N be defeated? South should lead the knave of diamonds, not fourth highest when holding an interior sequence. Declarer will attack clubs but when North wins with the ace, a diamond return allows South to cash four diamonds. The contract should be defeated by one trick. After cashing the diamonds South must not lead away from ♠K. Any other return and East will lose ♥A and ♠K for one down.</div>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1N	Pass All Pass
West	North	East	South						
Pass	Pass	1N	Pass All Pass						
<div><div><div>♠754</div><div>♥KQJ6</div><div>♦943</div><div>♣Q64</div></div><div><div>♠AK2</div><div>♥1095</div><div>♦52</div><div>♣AKJ73</div></div><div><div>♠983</div><div>♥A</div><div>♦KQJ876</div><div>♣1052</div></div><div><div>♠QJ76</div><div>♥87432</div><div>♦A10</div><div>♣98</div></div></div>	<div>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♣ 1N</td><td>Pass Pass</td><td>1♦ 3N</td><td>Pass All pass</td></tr></table> <div>Best defence will defeat 3N by two tricks. Moderate defence will set the contract by one. Poor defence could see declarer home. First North leads ♥K (not a fourth best ♥6 from a sequence). Secondly South should duck the first diamond, allowing ♦K to hold. That play cuts declarer off from the lovely diamonds. Now South wins a second diamond perforce and plays a heart. North cashes ♥QJ (which happens to unblock the suit) and continues with ♥6. South cashes the heart winners and the defence will come to a club trick. Well defended and two down.</div>	West	North	East	South	1♣ 1N	Pass Pass	1♦ 3N	Pass All pass
West	North	East	South						
1♣ 1N	Pass Pass	1♦ 3N	Pass All pass						

<div><div><div>♠A2</div><div>♥94</div><div>♦763</div><div>♣KQ10986</div></div><div><div>♠K943</div><div>♥8763</div><div>♦Q952</div><div>♣5</div></div><div><div>♠Q765</div><div>♥Q105</div><div>♦1084</div><div>♣A43</div></div><div><div>♠J108</div><div>♥AKJ2</div><div>♦AKJ</div><div>♣J72</div></div></div>	<div>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All pass</td></tr></table> <p>A full range of results can be expected on this hand. Some declarers may make as many as twelve tricks whereas very best defence can hold the contract to eight tricks (spelling defeat). With a choice of 4card suits West should choose the unbid major. Bingo. East wins and returns a spade knocking out the entry to the long clubs. When declarer plays on clubs East ducks the first two rounds thereby breaking the communication to dummy's winners. There are now only two club winners and the contract fails.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3N	All pass			
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	Pass	1♥														
Pass	2♣	Pass	3N														
All pass																	
<div><div><div>♠9</div><div>♥AQ1075</div><div>♦98542</div><div>♣63</div></div><div><div>♠106432</div><div>♥K3</div><div>♦K7</div><div>♣AQ52</div></div><div><div>♠QJ875</div><div>♥J9</div><div>♦A106</div><div>♣KJ4</div></div><div><div>♠AK</div><div>♥8642</div><div>♦QJ3</div><div>♣10987</div></div></div>	<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The bidding may be as simple as above. If West starts lower he may give North an easy (and dubious) entrée to proceedings and North South could steal a heart contract. Back to 4♠. East ought to be defeated, losing two spades and two hearts. The defence needs to cash the hearts quickly. If South fails to switch to a heart at any point after winning the two top trumps, one of the hearts disappears on the long club. Ouch.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass						
West	North	East	South														
		1♠	Pass														
4♠	All Pass																

<p>♠AKQJ8 ♥J65 ♦KJ10 ♣106</p> <p>♠2 ♥AKQ873 ♦A72 ♣754</p> <p>♠107 ♥102 ♦Q9643 ♣9832</p> <p>♠96543 ♥94 ♦85 ♣AKQJ</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>1♥ All Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass 4♠</td></tr></table> <p>With a very poor five card suit South should pass as dealer. When partner overcalls 1♠, promising 5cards (generally), the hand is worth an immediate jump to game. 3♠ is an OK(-ish) alternative but 2♠ is a gross underbid. Opposite a 2♠ raise game will always be missed. East leads a top of a doubleton ♥10 which West wins with ♥Q (generally defenders win with the lower/lowest of touching honours). One defence is to cash a second heart and to switch to a low diamond – notice that this is an underlead of a side suit ace against a suit contract. BUT it is not the <i>opening lead</i> of such a card and West knows a lot more about the hand. Giving declarer this “losing option” of misguessing the diamonds (who has ♦Q? Who has ♦A?) is the dynamic way to break seemingly unbreakable contracts. The other defence which always works on the hand is to play a third heart as East’s ♠10 can win the trick, being a higher ranking trump than any in dummy. Choices for the defence.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥ All Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass 4♠
West	North	East	South						
1♥ All Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass 4♠						
<p>♠AKJ93 ♥Q ♦J542 ♣A109</p> <p>♠Q652 ♥AKJ62 ♦A7 ♣KQ</p> <p>♠87 ♥9743 ♦KQ ♣J7643</p> <p>♠104 ♥1085 ♦109863 ♣852</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>1♥ 4♥</td><td>1♠ All Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Look at the hearts in the South hand. How many tricks will that holding take? The best defence generates two trumps for South. North leads a top spade on which South plays an encouraging ♠10 (assuming we’re playing high likes; play ♠4 if playing “reverse” methods). After cashing a second spade North follows with a third round, choosing ♠3, a low spade indicating an entry in the lower side suit, i.e. clubs. South overruffs whatever trump is played in dummy and duly returns a club. Again dummy’s trump can be beaten on the return of another spade. The contract fails by two tricks. Good stuff.</p> <p><i>[Bridge, of course, has few certainties, and here South is likely to play the same spades in the same order had he been dealt SQ1042, say. North may rationalise his decision to continue with a third spade by assuming that South would have raised with four trumps. That, of course, is far from clear if South has no other values].</i></p>	West	North	East	South	1♥ 4♥	1♠ All Pass	2♥	Pass
West	North	East	South						
1♥ 4♥	1♠ All Pass	2♥	Pass						