



Andrew Kambites

Entries and Communication

Part I Establishing Long Suits

IN the first deal your four of clubs lead is won by East's king, declarer following with the six. East returns a club and South inserts the ten. How should you defend if the club East returned was: (i) the nine? (ii) the five?

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ A 7 4
♥ K Q 2
♦ K J 10 9 8 4
♣ 3

♠ 9 6 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ 6 2
♣ A J 8 4 2

North	South
	1NT
3NT	Pass

This is all about knowing which card you would expect East to return from any particular club holding. If East wins West's opening lead and he chooses to return West's suit:

- (i) If East started with three cards in the suit, then he returns the higher of his remaining two cards. The return of the nine is clearly a next highest from three. You can win the jack but don't delude yourself that if you play the ace the queen will fall. Declarer still has the queen guarded. You should win the jack and switch to a heart. You need East to have an entry to lead another club through declarer. The heart switch is obvious because if partner has the ace of diamonds he will gain the lead with it later.

- (ii) If East started with four or more cards in the suit, then he returns his original fourth highest, unless there is a strong possibility that the remaining two cards might block the suit. The return of the five is clearly from an original four-card holding, indeed you can work out that partner started with exactly ♣ K 9 7 5. You must take your jack and cash the ace. A good partner will drop the nine under your ace to avoid blocking the suit.

★★★★★

In the next deal West leads the nine of spades against 3NT and dummy plays low. Can you defeat this contract?

Love All. Dealer North.

♠ 10 6 2
♥ K J
♦ K Q 4
♣ Q J 10 7 6

♠ K Q 7 5 4
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A 7 3 2
♣ 2

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♠	3NT
All Pass			

Declarer has:

♠ A J 8 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ J 10 6 5 ♣ K 4 3

If you play the queen, then declarer will allow it to win the trick. You can continue spades but declarer will win and when

West comes in with the ace of clubs, he will have no spade left to return. Declarer has two spade tricks whatever you do. You can force him to win trick one by playing a low spade. You must now hope that declarer tackles clubs before diamonds. West takes his ace of clubs and returns his last spade. As the clubs are played you discard three diamonds and a heart.

★★★★★

In the final deal West leads the queen of hearts against 3NT. North plays a low heart. You are East. Plan the defence.

N/S Game. Dealer South.

♠ A Q 6
♥ A 9 5
♦ K 9 5
♣ J 10 9 4

♠ 8 4 3 2
♥ K 2
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 8 6 3 2

North	South
	1NT
3NT	Pass

From ♥Q-J-8-6-3 West would have led a fourth highest ♥6, so West has led from a holding headed by ♥Q-J-10 or ♥Q-J-9. If you allow partner's queen to hold the trick, then you will take trick two with your king, and will have no heart left to return. We say that the suit is *blocked*. You must overtake the queen with your king and return your second heart, called *unblocking*. □



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Part II

Disrupting Declarer's Entries

THE skill of disrupting declarer's entries is greatly neglected. In the first deal you lead your six of spades against declarer's 3NT. East's nine is taken by declarer's ten and declarer leads the three of diamonds to trick two. You play low and allow dummy's king of diamonds to win. Declarer then returns to his hand with the queen of clubs and now plays the four of diamonds. How do you defend:

- (i) If East's first diamond was the two?
- (ii) If East's first diamond was the six?

N/S Game. Dealer South.

♠ 8 2
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K Q J 10 9
♣ 7 6 4

♠ A J 7 6 5
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ 8 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Whatever your agreed signalling methods, partner is expected to show you whether he started with an odd or even number of cards in a suit if declarer is playing that suit to set up winners in an otherwise entryless dummy. Normal methods are that high-low shows an even number of cards in the suit, while low-high shows an odd number.

In scenario (i) East's two shows an odd number: either one or three. If the two is a singleton you cannot prevent dummy's diamonds running. If East has three

diamonds, then you can cut declarer off from dummy by taking your ace now. Declarer has just two diamonds.

In scenario (ii), there are two missing diamonds, the two and the eight. With a diamond holding of ♦8-6-2 East would not have played the six, so the six is either a singleton or from ♦6-2 doubleton. You must withhold your ace for a second round, hoping that partner has a second diamond and declarer has three.



In the second deal your partner leads the two of clubs against declarer's 1NT. Your king wins the trick. What should you return at trick two?

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ K 6 5 4
♥ K Q J 10 8
♦ A
♣ 8 7 3

♠ A J 10
♥ A 7 4
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ K 9 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

You have an understandable urge to return your partner's suit and hopefully set up the thirteenth club in his hand. However, there is other business to attend to first. Declarer has:

♠ Q 7 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ K 9 6 5 4 ♣ Q J 5

You hold the ace of hearts, and with your ace of spades sitting after dummy's king you have legitimate ambitions to cut declarer off from dummy's hearts. Declarer has only one entry to the hearts: the ace of diamonds. You must attack this at trick two. Switch to a diamond. When declarer plays hearts, watch your partner's count signals carefully to see for how many rounds to withhold your ace.



In many deals the success or otherwise of the defence lies in keeping declarer out of his hand or dummy.

In the third deal you lead the eight of hearts against 6NT. Declarer starts by cashing dummy's six red suit winners. He then plays the ace of spades followed by the seven of spades. Your partner follows with the ten and jack. Declarer plays the four and six. What is the point of this deal?

N/S Game. Dealer North.

♠ A Q 9 8 7
♥ A K Q
♦ A K Q
♣ A 5

♠ K 5 3 2
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 6 3
♣ K 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

If you understand what is going on you will realise that you are certain to defeat this contract provided you prevent declarer reaching whatever winners he has in his hand. Partner has no spades left. If you leave him on lead he can only put declarer in his hand. Declarer has twelve winners, courtesy of the club finesse. His hand is:

♠ 6 4 ♥ J 10 5 4 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q J

The successful defence is hardly rocket science. Neither does it take huge knowledge of bridge technique. Just overtake partner's jack of spades with your king and return a spade, putting declarer back on the table. You will make your king of clubs at trick thirteen.

You may not like your opponents' bidding, or declarer's card play, but that is no excuse for letting through a clearly beatable slam contract.

★★★★★

Sometimes you need to be a little bit subtle. You may have enough defensive tricks to defeat the contract but you simply cannot get at them. In the last deal you cash your ♣A-K, but partner shows an odd number of clubs. What do you do at trick three?

Game All. Dealer South.

♠	7 5
♥	Q 5 3
♦	A K J 10 2
♣	J 7 6

♠	K 8
♥	K 4
♦	8 6 5 4
♣	A K Q 3 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♣	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

You will need to make a trick with the king of hearts, but a little thought will show you that it is pointless hoping partner has the ace of hearts after declarer's strong bidding. Instead you must hope that declarer has:

♠ A Q J 10 9 3 ♥ A J 10 ♦ Q 7 ♣ 9 4

In that case you can attack the entry to dummy's diamonds by switching to a diamond now, and playing another diamond when you come in with the king of spades. Declarer will then have to resort to the doomed heart finesse. □

IN A NUTSHELL

by Jeremy Dhondy

REVOKING

If my partner shows out, can I check he hasn't made an error by asking him?

Yes. The 2007 Laws restored the right to do this. If you ask in a surprised voice, you may create some unauthorised information for your partner. Dummy may not ask a defender.

Can revokes be corrected?

A player *must* correct a revoke if he becomes aware of it before it is established. The card he played in error, if he is a defender, becomes a major penalty card.

Can I revoke at trick twelve?

Yes, but if you do then if it is discovered before the hand is returned to the board, it must be corrected.

How does a revoke become established?

When the offender or his partner play to the *next* trick. If you revoke and then claim, this establishes the revoke.

How many tricks?

- Once the revoke is established, *if* the trick was won by the revoking player, then this trick and one other is transferred to the opponents.
- If someone else (partner or opponents) won the trick, then one trick

is transferred.

- If the offending side does not make a trick subsequent to the revoke, then no tricks are transferred.

What happens if transferring one or two tricks is not enough?

It's possible that a revoke may do something nasty like cut declarer off from dummy and stop him making several tricks. In this event the director may decide that the non-offending side is insufficiently compensated and assign an adjusted score.

Are there revokes for which there is no rectification?

Yes. The law lists seven situations including both sides revoking on the same hand and revoking more than once in the same suit (only the last is subject to rectification). Law 64B gives a full list.

Final notes

- The law is quite complicated, so please call the director every time there is a revoke.
- The law specifies that the prime purpose of the revoke law is to *rectify the damage* and not to punish the revoking side.

BRIDGE PLAYERS TIE THE KNOT IN KENDALL

TWO Poulton bridge players cemented their partnership by getting married in Kendal Registry Office.

Bill Winter, aged 74, has represented Poulton BC and more recently Lytham BC in local leagues for many years. He has also been running the Beginners and Improvers weekly classes at Poulton.

Bill's bride, Hazel Shaw, is 70 and, being an ex-pupil of Bill's, now helps him with his teaching.

The happy couple, seen here the morning after the wedding, spent their honeymoon (two days without bridge!) in Ambleside.

(Neville Wiseman)





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Part III

Disrupting Declarer's Entries Continued

THIS month I carry on looking at deals where the theme is to disrupt declarer's communications. In the first deal your partner leads the seven of clubs to your queen. You cash the ace of clubs at trick two, partner following with the nine. How should you defend?

N/S Game. Dealer South.

♠ A 5 3 2
♥ 5 3
♦ 10 9 8 6
♣ K J 6

♠ 9 4
♥ 6 2
♦ Q 7 5 4
♣ A Q 5 3 2

North	South
	2♥ ¹
3NT	4♦
5♦	Pass

¹ Acol Strong Two

Did you make the 'obvious' heart switch? Declarer has:

♠ Q
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ A K J 3 2
♣ 10 8

He wins the ace of hearts and cashes the ace of diamonds. Noting that your partner has no diamonds, he crosses to dummy's spade ace

and finesses diamonds to make his contract. Can you see how to give him a losing option?

The bidding suggests he started with five cards in each red suit and two clubs. That leaves room for at most one spade.

Could he be void in spades? If partner had seven spades surely he would have pre-empted over 2♥ at this vulnerability, so declarer's shape seems to be 1-5-5-2. Try switching to a spade at trick three. Unless he has a deeply suspicious mind declarer will not want to risk a first round diamond finesse, so he may lead a diamond to the ♦A in his hand. By now he will know you started with four diamonds, but it is too late for him to do anything about it. He has no way back to dummy to take a diamond finesse. When he tries the ♥A-K followed by a heart ruff you overruff with the queen of diamonds.

The point of this deal is that you need to remove dummy's entry before declarer discovers the diamond break. This is another case of attacking declarer's communications.

Another Example

In the next deal you lead the jack of spades against declarer's 3NT. Partner encourages with the nine and declarer allows your jack to hold the trick. Can you give yourself the best chance of beating this contract?

N/S Game. Dealer North.

♠ 3
♥ K J 10 9
♦ A K Q 4 3
♣ A K 3

♠ J 7
♥ A 3 2
♦ J 10 9 8 7
♣ Q J 5

West	North	East	South
	1♦	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Assuming partner has the ♠K-Q for his pre-empt, the best hand that declarer can hold is:

♠ A 10 2
♥ Q 8 4
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 10 9 8 4

If you continue with a second spade, then declarer will win the ace, discarding a club from dummy, maybe try one round of diamonds and then

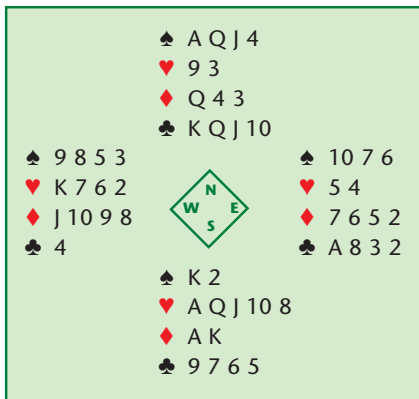
force out your ace of hearts. You will have no spade to return when you win the ace of hearts. Declarer will make the ace of spades, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

To beat this contract you must now look at the deal with fresh eyes. Declarer had to withhold his ace of spades at trick one to break defensive communications in the spade suit, but now you have another string to your bow. With a spade trick in the bag, you can see another four tricks if you can limit all further activity to interplay between you and dummy. Switch to a diamond at trick two. Then keep your ace of hearts to deal with declarer's queen of hearts, denying him a lead to his hand. You will defeat 3NT with the spade trick you have already taken, the ace of hearts, two diamonds and a club. Declarer will never make his ace of spades.

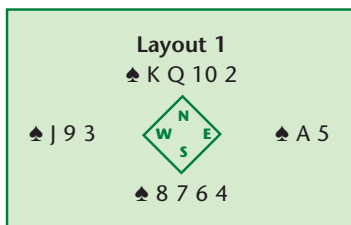
Fourth Hand Play

I always stress the principle that the

default position in fourth hand is to win a trick. The next deal demonstrates the consequences of ducking without a good reason. South was in 6NT. He won the jack of diamonds lead with his ace and played a club to dummy's king. East ducked. Declarer then finessed his queen of hearts. West won the king, but had no club to return. South never needed to touch clubs again. West could reasonably have asked East in what circumstances he could gain by ducking.



However, there can be good reasons to withhold your winner as fourth to play. They can be to disrupt declarer's communications, but they can also be to give him a losing option. In Layout 1 (below) the contract is 6♣ and the trump suit is as shown:

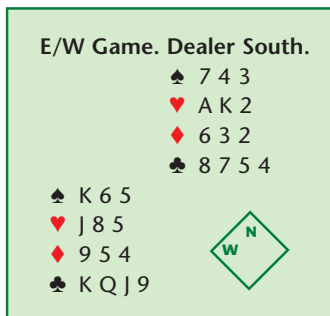


A trump is led to dummy's king. If East wins the ace, no doubt declarer will later successfully finesse dummy's ten. If East allows the king to win, declarer has a much harder task. He will be faced with a guess when he later leads another trump towards dummy.

A Last Example

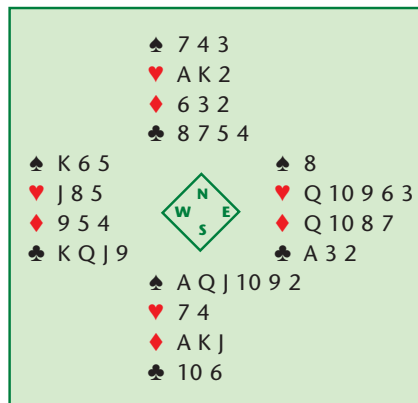
In the last deal (*top of next column*) you are West and you lead your king of clubs against 4♣. East overtakes with the ace and returns a club. The third club is ruffed by declarer. Declarer then enters dummy with the ace of hearts and leads a spade to his queen, East following suit

with the eight. How do you defend?



North	South
1NT	1♠
4♠	3♠
	Pass

To see the point of this deal, look at the full diagram below and consider declarer's hand:



If you win the trick with your king of spades, declarer can easily draw trumps and use the king of hearts as an entry to dummy to successfully finesse diamonds.

However, suppose you allow the queen of spades to hold the trick. Declarer might have some suspicion that you may be conning him, but he is highly likely to re-enter dummy with the king of hearts in order to finesse in trumps again. He will groan when East shows out and rise with his ace of spades, but now he has inescapable tricks to lose to the king of spades and queen of diamonds, as he can no longer enter dummy to lead to his ♦J.

To summarise: your most common reasons for allowing declarer (or dummy) to win a trick when you are fourth to play are either to disrupt his entries, or to give your opponent a losing option. □

CAPTION COMPETITION



Look, look! A fourth!

THE winner of our October competition, with the caption above, is Roy Westwater, of London, who will receive an elegant bridge mug from our sponsors, Bridge and Golf Gifts Direct (see page 13). Other excellent captions were: *I can see a green point ahead!* (Beverley Embleton, Kent); *Ah! There's table 46!* (Jacqui Lund, London); *I'm sure the Director said the Blue Section was over there* (John MacLeod, London); *The qualifying heat of the open teams was taking its toll* (Brian Gladman, Surrey); *The first sighting of the new EBU overseas congress destination* (Fred Kissack, Isle of Man); *West is finally seen returning from his trek to the toilets at the Brighton Congress* (Martin Osborn, Berks.); *I knew we should have added Directional Asking Bids to the system* (John Portwood, Co. Durham); and *I hate these 3/4 Howell movements!* (Michael Wilkes, Worcs.).

The cartoon for our new competition is below. Please send your bridgy captions (multiple entries accepted) to the Editor, *English Bridge*, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or by e-mail to elena@ebu.co.uk not later than 19th December 2011. **Don't forget to include your full postal address!**



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