

Defending Suit Contracts

(DLM ref : HBSET55)

<p> ♠ A62 ♥ AKJ654 ♦ 743 ♣ 2 ♠ J9 ♥ 92 ♦ AQ8652 ♣ Q104 ♠ 10873 ♥ 107 ♦ 9 ♣ AJ9653 ♠ KQ54 ♥ Q83 ♦ KJ10 ♣ K87 </p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East leads his singleton diamond. Declarer will probably play ♦10 from dummy. West wins ♦Q and because there is no diamond missing higher than ♦9 he can tell East has led a singleton or doubleton. He cashes ♦A, gives East a diamond ruff. ♣A is the fourth defensive trick.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
	1♥	Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥														
All Pass																	
<p> ♠ J9 ♥ 109 ♦ AQ865 ♣ Q1043 ♠ KQ54 ♥ Q83 ♦ KJ10 ♣ K87 ♠ A62 ♥ AK7654 ♦ 743 ♣ 2 ♠ 10873 ♥ J2 ♦ 92 ♣ AJ965 </p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South leads ♦9, top of a doubleton. Declarer will probably play ♦10 from dummy. North wins ♦Q and because there is no diamond missing higher than ♦9 he can tell South has led a singleton or doubleton. North cashes ♦A, gives South a diamond ruff and ♣A is the fourth defensive trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
		1♥	Pass														
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass														
4♥	All Pass																
<p> ♠ AJ1086 ♥ KJ6 ♦ 652 ♣ 94 ♠ 53 ♥ 874 ♦ AQ103 ♣ 10765 ♠ Q42 ♥ AQ102 ♦ 874 ♣ KJ3 ♠ K97 ♥ 953 ♦ KJ9 ♣ AQ82 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East does best to lead ♦7, second highest from a bad suit. Whichever card is played from dummy is covered cheaply by West. From West's point of view ♦7 could be from a doubleton, but with all his diamond honours well placed West should be content to wait for diamond tricks. West switches to ♥7, leading up to dummy's weakness. East wins as cheaply as possible and switches back to diamonds. The defenders take the first six tricks, West leading hearts and East leading diamonds, and they may well make a seventh later with ♠Q.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♠	All Pass					
West	North	East	South														
			1NT														
Pass	2♠	All Pass															
<p> ♠ 1042 ♥ 92 ♦ J1085 ♣ AJ76 ♠ K93 ♥ QJ10 ♦ Q964 ♣ KQ4 ♠ 5 ♥ AK865 ♦ 73 ♣ 109853 ♠ AQJ876 ♥ 743 ♦ AK2 ♣ 2 </p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South cashes ♥A. North plays ♥9, starting a high-low signal to encourage. South can see all the hearts bigger than ♥9 so he knows North has one or two hearts. He continues with ♥K and gives North a ruff. ♣A is the fourth defensive trick. Note that South would have led ♥6 against a no-trump contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass								
West	North	East	South														
1NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass														

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<p> ♠ K93 ♥ AJ10 ♦ Q964 ♣ KQ4 ♠ A ♥ KQ865 ♦ 73 ♣ 108753 ♠ 1042 ♥ 92 ♦ J1085 ♣ AJ96 ♠ QJ8765 ♥ 743 ♦ AK2 ♣ 2 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West leads ♥K. East plays ♥9, starting a high-low signal to encourage. West can see all the hearts bigger than ♥9 so knows East has one or two hearts. North's ♥A wins. West soon regains the lead with ♠A and is able to cash ♥Q and give East a ruff. ♣A is the fourth defensive trick. Note that West would have led ♥6 against a no-trump contract.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
	1♦	Pass	1♠														
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠														
All Pass																	
<p> ♠ 62 ♥ KQJ10 ♦ 1085 ♣ A543 ♠ AJ75 ♥ A98 ♦ 94 ♣ KQ62 ♠ KQ108 ♥ 762 ♦ KQJ76 ♣ J ♠ 943 ♥ 543 ♦ A32 ♣ 10987 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North leads ♥K. Top of a solid sequence is as good a lead against a suit contract as against no-trumps. The defence now have four tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
		1♦	Pass														
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass														
4♠	All Pass																
<p> ♠ KQ532 ♥ Q76 ♦ 63 ♣ 973 ♠ J6 ♥ 532 ♦ KJ72 ♣ K862 ♠ A1098 ♥ A4 ♦ 10984 ♣ QJ10 ♠ 74 ♥ KJ1098 ♦ AQ5 ♣ A54 </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West doesn't fancy making a dangerous lead away from an unsupported honour so he makes a passive trump lead. East wins ♥A and returns ♥4. Declarer wins in dummy and should finesse ♦Q. West wins ♦K and plays his last trump. Deprived of a diamond ruff in dummy declarer now cannot make more than seven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
			1♥														
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥														
All Pass																	
<p> ♠ AQ1096 ♥ 652 ♦ Q3 ♣ 872 ♠ KJ542 ♥ KQJ7 ♦ A82 ♣ 6 ♠ 7 ♥ 1098 ♦ K764 ♣ KJ543 ♠ 83 ♥ A43 ♦ J1095 ♣ AQ109 </p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With good spades, declarer's first suit, North should be very keen to prevent declarer ruffing spades in dummy. He leads a trump. South wins ♥A and returns ♥3. Declarer wins and may cross to dummy's ♦K to take a spade finesse. North wins as cheaply as possible and plays his last trump. Deprived of any spade ruffs in dummy declarer will now struggle to make more than five tricks if North keeps leading clubs and South leads spades and diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass						
West	North	East	South														
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass														
2♥	All Pass																

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<p>♠ 32 ♥ AQ876 ♦ J2 ♣ KQ102</p> <p>♠ KJ105 ♠ AQ987 ♥ - ♥ 10954 ♦ 109854 ♦ A ♣ J874 ♣ 653</p> <p>♠ 64 ♥ KJ32 ♦ KQ763 ♣ A9</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South knows that his side has the majority of points but unless he leads a trump declarer will cash ♦A and make all his nine trumps separately by cross-ruffing. Consider leading a trump to cut down opposition ruffs if your side has most of the points.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	1♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass										
West	North	East	South																		
	1♥	1♠	4♥																		
4♠	All Pass																				
<p>♠ 1093 ♥ A ♦ 5432 ♣ 107543</p> <p>♠ 87654 ♠ 2 ♥ 543 ♥ KQJ108 ♦ QJ10 ♦ AK876 ♣ AQ ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ AKQJ ♥ 9762 ♦ 9 ♣ 9862</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West has bid spades but it is natural for South to lead ♠A and continue ♠K. Declarer ruffs and seems to have eleven tricks, but the 4-1 trump break will give him a problem. He plays ♥K at trick 3. North wins ♥A and must persevere with spades, even though he knows declarer will ruff. Declarer ruffs and cashes ♥Q, but is now in trouble because South has more trumps than he does.</p> <p>The message for the defence is: don't automatically stop playing a suit just because you know declarer is going to ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
		1♥	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass																		
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass																		
4♥	All Pass																				
<p>♠ 8765 ♥ 543 ♦ QJ10 ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ KQJ10 ♠ A943 ♥ 2 ♥ A976 ♦ 5432 ♦ 9 ♣ 10754 ♣ 9863</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ KQJ108 ♦ AK876 ♣ KJ</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North bid spades but it is natural for West to lead ♠K and continue ♠Q. Declarer ruffs and seems to have eleven tricks, but the 4-1 trump break will give him a problem. He plays ♥K at trick 3. East wins ♥A and must persevere with spades, even though he knows declarer will ruff. Declarer ruffs and cashes ♥Q, but is now in trouble because East has more trumps than he does.</p> <p>The message for the defence is: don't automatically stop playing a suit just because you know declarer is going to ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦																		
Pass	4♥	All Pass																			

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<p>♠ 52 ♥ AK97 ♦ A1054 ♣ 1098</p> <p>♠ AQ76 ♠ KJ103 ♥ J4 ♥ Q5 ♦ Q32 ♦ K76 ♣ AKQ4 ♣ J765</p> <p>♠ 984 ♥ 108632 ♦ J98 ♣ 32</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North cashes ♥A K and should wait patiently for whatever is coming in diamonds. He exits passively with a club at trick 3.</p> <p>There are various tests that declarer can set North. If declarer leads ♦2 from his hand North must play low (Second hand plays low).</p> <p>If declarer leads ♦Q from his hand, North must play ♦A (Cover an honour with an honour).</p> <p>If North passes every test his side will eventually come to two diamond tricks.</p> <p>Note that if North wrongly cashes ♦A at trick 3 that is the last trick for the defence. North's ♦A has a role: to kill West's ♦Q.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass										
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass										
<p>♠ AKQJ ♥ J4 ♦ Q32 ♣ QJ42</p> <p>♠ 986 ♠ 52 ♥ 108632 ♥ AK97 ♦ 986 ♦ K1054 ♣ A3 ♣ 1098</p> <p>♠ 10743 ♥ Q5 ♦ AJ7 ♣ K765</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East cashes ♥A K and should wait patiently for whatever is coming in diamonds. He exits passively with a club at trick 3.</p> <p>West takes ♣A and returns a club. There are various tests that declarer can set East.</p> <p>If declarer leads ♦2 from his hand East must play low (Second hand plays low).</p> <p>If declarer leads ♦Q from his hand, East must play ♦K (Cover an honour with an honour).</p> <p>If East passes every test his side will eventually come to a diamond trick.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠										
Pass	4♠	All Pass											
<p>♠ 10 ♥ A1065 ♦ 10632 ♣ 8543</p> <p>♠ J976 ♠ AKQ852 ♥ 973 ♥ KJ ♦ J54 ♦ 97 ♣ AKQ ♣ J76</p> <p>♠ 43 ♥ Q842 ♦ AKQ8 ♣ 1092</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South starts with ♦A K Q. Declarer ruffs, draws trumps and at some stage leads a heart from dummy. North plays low (second hand) and declarer has to guess whether to play ♥K or ♥J. If he guesses correctly he makes 4♠. If he guesses incorrectly he fails.</p> <p>If North wrongly jumps in with ♥A declarer has no guess and cannot fail.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠	Pass	1♠	Pass			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
3♠	Pass	1♠	Pass										
		4♠	All Pass										

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<p> ♠ 932 ♥ K65 ♦ K1083 ♣ J65 ♠ Q6 ♠ 75 ♥ Q432 ♥ AJ10 ♦ Q76 ♦ 9542 ♣ A432 ♣ 10987 ♠ AKJ1084 ♥ 987 ♦ AJ ♣ KQ </p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West has a difficult lead: perhaps best is ♥2. If declarer tries ♥K from dummy the defenders easily take four tricks but what if declarer plays ♥5? East should realise that West has ♥Q (because without an honour West would have led the second highest) and play ♥10, which holds the trick. East switches to a club (dummy's weakness). West takes ♣A and switches back to hearts, allowing the defenders to take the first four tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
			1♠														
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠														
All Pass																	
<p> ♠ 2 ♥ Q53 ♦ 98432 ♣ AQ76 ♠ AKJ765 ♠ Q1098 ♥ J6 ♥ AK4 ♦ 65 ♦ KQJ ♣ K85 ♣ 432 ♠ 43 ♥ 109872 ♦ A107 ♣ J109 </p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North leads ♦8, the second highest from a bad suit. South wins ♦A and knows that if North had a singleton diamond declarer would have six; hardly likely. South switches to ♣J, top of a sequence and up to dummy's weakness. The defenders take three club tricks.</p> <p>Note that the rule of eleven would tell South that North has not led a fourth highest diamond. 11-8 = 3, but South can see five diamonds higher than ♦8.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass								
West	North	East	South														
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass														