

Counsel for the Defence! 53: Quiz

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 8 7

♥ Q 10 6

♦ K J 8

♣ Q 7 6



♠ K

♥ 9 8 2

♦ A Q 10

♣ A 9 8 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

After your overcall, the opponents quickly outbid you to the spade game.

Q1: What options do you consider for your opening lead, and which do you choose?

Say you choose a heart, and see Trick 1 go: 8♥: 8-Q-5-3

Q2: What do you know about the heart position?

At Trick 2, declarer takes a losing trump finesse to your singleton King, leading the J♠ from dummy: J♠: J-2-5-K

Q3: What do you presume the trump position to be?

Q4: How do you defend from here?

Post Mortem

Q4: How in retrospect could declarer have made *three more* tricks?

Q5: Should declarer have found this line?

Board 2

East Deals

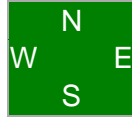
N-S Vul

♠ A 10 7 4

♥ K J 7 2

♦ Q 5

♣ Q 7 2



♠ J 5 2

♥ 8

♦ A 9 6

♣ K J 10 9 8 4

West North East South

1 ♥ 2 ♣

4 ♥ All pass

Again the opponents swat aside your overcall quickly bidding the heart game.

Q1: What opening leads do you consider, and which do you choose?

Q2: Once you see the dummy hand, what do you judge partner's point count to be, at best?

You plump for a low spade, and the first trick is won by partner: 2 ♠: 2-4-K-3

Q3: Who holds the Queen of Spades?

Partner switches to your suit, and you win - Trick 2: partner leads 5 ♣: 5-6-K-2

Q4: Our side has won two tricks, and you have the A♦ to come. What are the three possibilities in partner's hand for another trick? Which of these might be urgent, and which can wait?

Q5: How do you play now to give your side the best chance of defeating the contract?

Post Mortem

Q6: What do you think of West's raise to Four Hearts?

Q7: Declarer could have played better. How?

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q 6 4 2

♥ A 10 9 6 5

♦ Q 4

♣ J 3



♠ J 8 3

♥ 8

♦ K 8 7 5 2

♣ 9 8 6 2

West North East South

Pass

Pass 1♣¹ 2♦² Pass

Pass Dbl All pass

1. Can be short
2. WJO

Q1: What are you expecting partner to hold for the X?

Q2: What options did you consider in response to this, and do you agree with the stated decision to Pass?

Q3: What opening leads do you consider and why?

Suppose you choose a club, partner taking the first two tricks:

Trick 1: you lead 8♣: 8-3-K-7

Trick 2: partner leads A♣: A-Q-6-J

Q4: Do you agree with the specific play of the 8 then the 6 on these first two rounds, and why?

Partner switches to the A♠, which you discourage: Trick 3 - partner leads A♠: A-7-3-2

Now partner tries the Q♥, which declarer wins in the dummy hand - partner leads to Trick 4, the Q♥: Q-3-8-A

Now declarer leads the Q♦ from table, partner predictably showing out. Trick 5 starts with dummy's Q♦: Q♦-5♣-3♦-?

Q5: Do you win or duck, and what is your general plan for the defence?

Post Mortem

Q6: Do you agree with East's Weak Jump Overcall?

Q7: How would you have fared in a club contract?

Q8: How would you have fared in a NT contract?