# TIP OF THE WEEK: Are You Missing an Inference?

Good bridge players are constantly drawing inferences that can assist in defending or playing a hand. Where can you find the best clues?

## **Analyze and Review the Bidding**

The bidding can point to who has the points and the stronger suits.

1C - 1S 2S - 3NT P		
2S - 4C 4S	2S - 3NT	Responder probably holds four spades. If he had more than four
3C - 4S> Inference: East did not bid Jacoby 2NT showing four card support and opening values. He probably holds four or five clubs and three spades.  1S - 1NT 2S - P> Inference: Declarer has six spades and less than four hearts. With 5,3,3,2, North would have passed 1NT. Declarer has no four-card suit and dummy has 3 or less spades.  1S - 2D 2H - 2NT 3D - 3NT> Inference: North has a singleton club. Responder insists on NT, so they	2S - 4C	
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## Interpret Partner's Bid or Lack of Bidding and what they Lead

Partner bids hearts, but leads a club> Inference: Partner might holds AQxxx and is reluctant to lead it, or he wants you to lead hearts through declarer.
Partner leads a high spot —————————> Inference: He is short in this suit, or lacks a high honor in the suit.
You lead the king of hearts and partner overtakes —————>  Inference: Partner most likely is void in clubs, or she wouldn't overtake.

. Partner leads a trump after declarer discloses a side suit ---->

Inference: The side suit is not going to break well; otherwise an attacking lead would have been made.

## Figure out Declarer's and Partner's Play Strategy

- . If a capable player adopts an unusual line of defense, or fails to adopt an obvious line, you should at once be on the alert.
- . If the defenders play a forcing game, you should **not** be surprised to find that the trumps break badly.
- . If a good defender gives you an entry to dummy where none existed, he is probably trying to get you to take a losing defense.
- . When the dummy comes down with a long threatening side suit and the defenders are making an active defense assume the suit is breaking normally.

06 >	Partner leads the 5 of spades, and declarer plays the queen from the dummy ——————————  inference:  Partner holds the Jack. If declarer has the jack, they would play low from the dummy.
42 75	Partner plays the king —————>  Inference: East wouldn't play the king if he held the QJ.
wins v Infere Decla	ence:  are trumps and you lead the jack of spades which declarer  with the Ace of diamonds ————>  ence:  arer must hold the king of spades. If declarer didn't have the king of  es, he would've covered the jack of spades with the queen of spades.
	d declarer begins to play trump Declarer plays the K. Who has the Q?  Inference: Without the Q, declarer would lead up to KJx, not away from it. Declarer holds the Q.
	12 75  -> Diamo wins wins wins wins wins wins wins wins

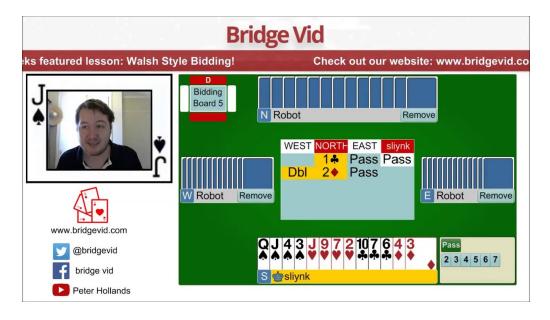
Check out, "The Dog that Didn't Bark" for more examples

https://www.bridgewebs.com > baystate > The Do...

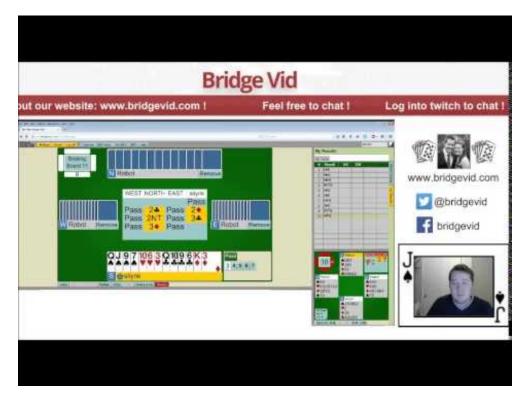
#### **PETER HOLLANDS**



https://youtu.be/3JVR4GMz1qg



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