

Tip of the Week: COMMON DEFENSIVE MISTAKES!

Winning isn't about brilliancies, it's about avoiding mistakes; the better players make fewer. How to minimize mistakes?

- Understand the types of errors you're making
- Decide which error happens most often and what's the best plan to improve

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| H: KT762 | QJ3 | 954 | Auction: 1NT - 3NT |
| <p>West leads the 6H and declarer plays the QH from dummy. Since east can't beat the QH, his attitude is known so he doesn't need to signal attitude. East should give a count signal with the 4 suggesting an odd number of cards in partner's suit. (Source: Barbara Seagram)</p> | | | |
| <p>Exception to Third Hand High against a Suit Contract (Richmond Bridge Association)</p> | | | |
| Lead: 2 | 864 | KJ95 --> | |
| <p>Play the J. If this forces the Ace, you have located the Q in partner's hand and partner knows that you hold the K. If it loses to the Q, you haven't lost anything, since partner never underleads the A against a suit contract. If you play the K at trick one, you know nothing about the location of the Q and partner does not know who has the J.</p> | | | |

Tony Shaw



**What are the most
common bridge mistakes
made by the defence?**



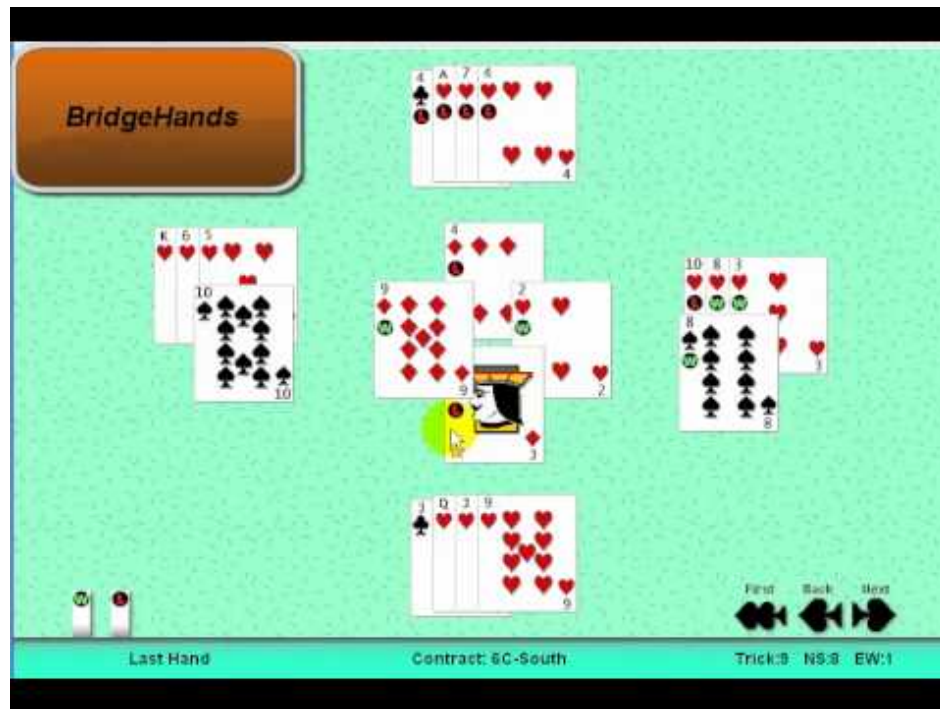
Two Common Defensive Mistakes (Source: Liam Milne)

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| <p>Switching to trumps when dummy has shortage in a side suit</p> | <p>Don't switch to trumps...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if declarer has plenty of other options (i.e a long suit in either hand) - The opponents have lots of trump so playing one round of trump won't hurt them <p>Switch to trumps when ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there are no obvious threats aside from ruffs in dummy - when declarer is going to cross-ruff - when you or your partner can draw several rounds of trump |
| <p>If you can see a way to defeat the contract, take control of the defense</p> | <p>Try to visualize partner's hand and what could go wrong if you leave the defense up to him</p> |

Mistakes in Defense (Source: bridge-tips.co.il)

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|--|---|
| <p>Poor communication between the defenders</p> | <p>Partnerships should periodically review their carding agreements to maximize their defensive tricks</p> |
| <p>Selecting the wrong card to lead in partner's suit can be devastating</p> | <p>In a No-Trump contract, partner needs to know how many cards you hold in his suit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when holding 4+ pieces, lead 4th best <p>In a suit contract, partner needs to know if you or declarer will trump the third round of the suit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from a doubleton, lead the top card - from 3+ cards, headed by an honor, lead the lowest card - from 3+ cards, without an honor, lead the 2nd highest - from a sequence, lead the top card |
| <p>Breaking new suits</p> | <p>Statistically, every time, you are on defense and break a new suit, you are giving an additional 1/2 trick to the opponent</p> |
| <p>Leading trumps against a suit contract when holding... JX, Qx, Jxx, Qxx, or x</p> | <p>Don't lead trump Let the declarer find the missing honor</p> |
| <p>Discarding without thinking about length in declarer or dummy's side suit</p> | <p>Maintain parity with the dummy and declarer whenever possible</p> |

Defending Against a Slam.
Bridgehands.com



<https://youtu.be/8rMdL2i7kjE>

Join Peter Hollands for a few more defensive tips during a weekly instant tournament



https://youtu.be/C5R5yw_FVXc

