

BRIDGE PRACTICE PLAY

DEFENDING SUIT CONTRACTS

Deal 1 - Dealer South

♠ QJ64	♠ K1053
♥ AQJ3	♥ 96
♦ 65	♦ A7
♣ 952	♣ A8763

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			1♦
pass	1♥	pass	3♦
pass	3♠	pass	5♦
all pass			

West, your partner, leads the ♣Q. You win the ace and the king falls from South. How will you continue?

Deal 2 - Dealer East

♠ 87	♠ A5
♥ 104	♥ J6
♦ K86	♦ AJ542
♣ KJ9872	♣ 10653

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
		2♠	4♥
all pass			

Sitting West, you lead the ♠A against South's game in hearts. Partner follows with an encouraging ♠9. How will you plan the defense?

Excerpt taken from:

TEST YOUR BRIDGE TECHNIQUE:

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MASTER POINT PRESS



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Deal 3 - Dealer South

♠ A Q K	
♥ K J 8 7 3	
♦ J 5	
♣ 7 5 4	
♠ 5	N W E S
♥ Q 10 5 2	
♦ Q 10 4 3	
♣ A K Q 6	

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
dbl	rdbl	pass	pass
2 ♣	3 ♣	pass	3 ♠
pass	4 ♠	all pass	

Sitting West, you lead the ♣K. Partner plays the ♣2 (count) and you play two more top clubs, everyone following. What next?

Deal 4 - Dealer North

♠ A K 10 9 8 3	
♥ 6	
♦ A 6 3	
♣ J 9 3	
♠ 7 5	N W E S
♥ 9 5 3	
♦ K 10 9 4	
♣ A 7 6 4	

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	2 ♥
pass	2 ♠	pass	4NT
pass	5 ♦	pass	6 ♥
all pass			

Sitting West, you lead the ♣A. Partner plays an encouraging ♣8 and the ♣K appears from South. What now?



BRIDGE PRACTICE PLAY

DEFENDING SUIT CONTRACTS — SOLUTIONS

Deal 1 - Dealer South

♠ 97	♠ QJ64	♠ K1053
♥ 108742	♥ AQJ3	♥ 96
♦ 83	♦ 65	♦ A7
♣ QJ104	♣ 952	♣ A8763

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N	E			
W	S			

♠ A82
♥ K5
♦ KQJ10942
♣ K

West	North	East	South
pass	1♥	pass	1♦
pass	3♠	pass	3♦
all pass			5♦

South, who made a jump rebid, is almost certain to hold the 16 points that are missing outside the club suit. Even if he holds only six diamonds, you can count five diamond tricks, two spade tricks with the finesse, and four heart tricks — a total of eleven. Your best hope is to cut declarer off from the dummy, which can be done if he holds only two hearts. At

Trick 2, you return a heart, won with the king. When the king of trumps is led, you win immediately (so that you still have a trump left) and return your remaining heart, which declarer must win in the dummy. Deprived of four heart tricks, declarer will now lead the spade queen. Should you cover or not?

If you do cover, declarer will simply win with the ♠A, draw trumps and return to dummy with the ♠J to enjoy the remaining heart winners. Play low and declarer will have no way to make the contract. He will doubtless try his luck with a third round of hearts, which you will ruff.

Deal 2 - Dealer East

♠ A5	♠ 87	♠ KJ9643
♥ J6	♥ 104	♥ 73
♦ AJ542	♦ K86	♦ Q1093
♣ 10653	♣ KJ9872	♣ 4

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N	E			
W	S			

♠ Q102
♥ AKQ9852
♦ 7
♣ AQ

West	North	East	South
all pass		2♠	4♥

The original West lost no time in continuing with a second spade which East won with the ace. East could now have beaten the contract by playing a third round of spades for his partner to ruff with the ♥J in front of dummy's ♥10. The diamond ace would then be the setting trick. Unfortunately this was not obvious to East. He decided to switch to his singleton

club, hoping that West could win and give him a club ruff. Not the best move! Declarer won with the ♣A, drew trumps and claimed an overtrick.

West was quick to blame his partner but in fact he could have made life much easier for poor East. Did you spot how to do this? At Trick 2 you should cash the ♦A before playing a second spade. It would then be obvious to East that declarer holds the ♣A. When partner wins the second round of spades there will be no temptation to switch to a club. He will play a third round of spades, hoping to find you with a trump higher than dummy's 10, and be satisfied to see you produce the ♥J.

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Deal 3 - Dealer South

♠ 5	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 8 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q 10 5 2		♥ 9 6 4									
♦ Q 10 4 3		♦ 9 7 6 2									
♣ AKQ 6		♣ 9 3 2									
	♠ 10 9 7 6 4 2										
	♥ A										
	♦ AK 8										
	♣ J 10 8										

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
dbl	rdbl	pass	pass
2 ♣	3 ♣	pass	3 ♠
pass	4 ♠	all pass	

Dummy has 14 points and you have 13. That leaves only 13 points between declarer and your partner. It is a near certainty that declarer holds the three missing big cards — the heart ace and the diamond ace-king. In that case, how can the defenders possibly score a fourth trick?

Unlikely as it may be, you must hope that your partner holds ♠J-x-x. A fourth round of clubs will then beat the contract. If declarer chooses to ruff with one of dummy's honors, partner's ♠J will be promoted. If instead declarer discards from dummy, planning to ruff in his hand, your partner will ruff with the ♠J.

It's not usually a good idea to give a ruff-and-sluff, of course. Here you are able to read declarer's hand with some accuracy and can be almost certain that no more tricks will come your way in the side suits.

Deal 4 - Dealer North

♠ 7 5	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 6 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 9 5 3		♥ 7 4 2									
♦ K 10 9 4		♦ 7 5									
♣ A 7 6 4		♣ Q 10 8 5 2									
	♠ J 4										
	♥ AKQJ 10 8										
	♦ QJ 8 2										
	♣ K										

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	2 ♥
pass	2 ♠	pass	4NT
pass	5 ♦	pass	6 ♥
all pass			

At the table West continued with a 'safe' second round of clubs. This was very much to declarer's liking. He ruffed in his hand and drew trumps in three rounds. He then took the percentage play in spades, cashing the ace-king and ruffing a third round of the suit. When the spades broke 3-2, declarer re-entered dummy with the ♦A and discarded

ed his three diamond losers on the established spades. Slam made!

What could West have done about it? One possibility was to switch to the ♦10 (or the ♦9) at Trick 2. Fearing the loss of two quick tricks, declarer might then have won with the diamond ace, drawn trumps and run the ♠J in the hope that he could bring in the whole spade suit.

An even better defense was for West to switch to the ♦K at Trick 2. This would knock out the dummy's side entry for certain, leaving declarer with no chance of making the contract.

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