

DEFENSE

You are West in the following hands:

- KJ7**
K86
A9
K10754

North Dealer, NS Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|-----------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| | P | P | 2NT (19-20 hcp) |
| P | 3NT | All passed | |

You led C5

Dummy comes down with

53
J109
QJ752
J98

Partner follows with C2. Declarer took the trick with CQ. He then played a diamond to the queen and another one to his king. You took the trick (partner followed low-high) and exited correctly with another club, knocking out declarer's ace.

Declarer next cashed three rounds of diamonds, pitching a spade and a heart from his hand. Partner also discarded a spade and heart. What are your pitches?

- KQ107**
10743
103
K83

South Dealer, Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|----|----|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 1C |
| P | P | 1D | 3C |
| P | 3D | P | 3NT |

All passed

You led SK. Dummy came down with:

J95
K652
942
765

Dummy's bidding was certainly aggressive.

Declarer took the trick with SA (Partner followed with S2 – discouraging) and played CA (partner followed with CJ) and CQ. When you took this trick, partner discarded D5.

Can you defeat this game opponents reached after partner's balancing act?

3. Q7652

98

7

AJ863

West Dealer, EW Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|----|---|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| P | 1D | P | 1NT |
| P | 3D | P | 3NT |
| P | 4C | P | 5D |

All Passed

Partner led SA. Dummy came down:

843
QJ3
K63
10854

Would you play the S9 (encouraging) or S2 (discouraging)?

- 4. K832**
2
A10854
A62

East Dealer, EW Vulnerable

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | P | 1H |
| X | XX | P | P |
| 1S | 2H | P | 4H |

All Passed

You led a trump. This was dummy:

974
Q53
KQJ3
Q109

Declarer won Partner's HJ with HA and immediately played D2. Would you take the DA? If so, assuming partner followed with D6, what would you return?

If you ducked this diamond, declarer continued with DQ, pitching a small spade in his hand. What would you return after taking this trick with DA? (Partner followed D6, D7.)

- 5. J9875**
KJ
Q632
109

North Dealer, NS vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | P | P | 1C |
| P | 1S | P | 2NT |
| P | 3NT | All Passed | |

You led the deuce of diamonds. Down came dummy:

6432
A97
1087
Q65

Partner took the trick with DA (declarer followed with D4) and returned D5, declarer taking the trick with DK. He then played the six of hearts and ducked your DJ, partner following with H4. What now?

6. QJ4
85
K1072
Q1084

East Dealer, Nil

| | | | |
|---|----|----|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | 2H | X |
| P | 3H | P | 3NT |
| P | 5S | P | 6S |

All Passed

This was pretty wild bidding. Partner led the king of hearts. Holding some defensive tricks, you awaited dummy to come down with some anxiety:

K86
A732
A86
AJ7

At trick two, declarer crossed to his trump ace, only to discover the rude 3-0 break in trumps. Declarer then played the trump king and ruffed a heart, removing your safe exit card. Now a trump to you – what would you do now? Was a diamond or a club the milder poison?

7. Q876
K1086
J109
82

East Dealer, Nil

Bidding went:

| | | | |
|----|------|----|------------|
| W | E | N | S |
| | 3NT* | P | 4C** |
| 5C | P | 6C | All Passed |

* = Solid minor suit, nothing outside

** = Pass or correct

Dummy put down:

AK104
 QJ3
 73
 Q965

Partner led DA and continued with DK. Declarer ruffed the second trick with C3, led the CJ to dummy's queen (diamond pitch from partner), and at trick four played the inevitable HQ. Now is the moment of truth. Would you cover, or would you not?

8. AJ965
1098
10
Q43

South Dealer, Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|-------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 2NT (20-21) |
| P | 3C | P | 3H |
| P | 4D | P | 4H |
| P | 6NT | All Passed | |

Apparently, North held 4S and 5+D. You decided to lead H10, the least of evils. This was what you saw in dummy:

K1032
Q64
AQ532
J

At trick one, partner contributed the heart deuce. Declarer won with the king and led the diamond king, then a diamond to dummy's ace; partner played jack-seven, and you discarded a spade. When a low spade was led, you were relieved to see partner follow with the eight; declarer played the queen.

Now what?

9. QJ10983

A63

K104

J

South Dealer, EW vulnerable

| | | | |
|------------|-----|---|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 1H |
| 1S | 2C* | P | 2NT |
| P | 3C | P | 3NT |
| All Passed | | | |

* = Forcing

Dummy came down with:

4
Q5
Q975
KQ10873

You led the queen of spade, of course. Partner followed with S5, and Declarer won with the ace. He then played the deuce of hearts. Would you take this trick or would you duck? Is this a trick question?

10. KJ10973

Q104

65

K5

East Dealer, Nil

| | | | |
|----|-----|------------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | P | 1H |
| 1S | 2C* | P | 2NT |
| P | 3NT | All Passed | |

* = Forcing

You led S10 (0/2). Dummy put down:

A
93
A943
QJ10983

Declarer took this trick in dummy perforce, and played a heart to his jack. How would you defend?

11. Q104
83
1094
AQ742

East Dealer, EW Vulnerable

| | | | |
|----|----|------------|---|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | 2S | X |
| 3S | 4H | All Passed | |

Dummy came down with:

85
AQ54
A52
KJ96

Partner led the ace followed by king of spades. He then shifted to the trump 10. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps, ending in his hand (partner pitched a spade). Declarer then advanced C5, partner following with C3 - club jack from dummy. Is this the time to do something smart?

12. 863
KQ1032
54
973

North Dealer, Nil

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1D | P | 2C |
| P | 3D | P | 3H |
| X | 3NT | P | 6NT |

All Passed

Partner led an obedient H8. Dummy came down:

Q9
AJ74
6
AKJ1084

Declarer played low from dummy and you won with the ten. What now?

13. 852

AJ1072

10

J953

South Dealer, EW Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 3D |
| P | 3NT | All Passed | |

Partner led C6 (4th best). Dummy came down:

K973
6
QJ87543
10

South violated fundamental principles by preempting with a 4-card major on the side. Let's see if you could make him pay.

You covered dummy's C10 with CJ and declarer won with CK. He then cashed the diamond ace, crossed to dummy by leading the spade jack to the king and played dummy's queen of diamonds. What would you discard?

14. AQ2

J1082

7652

Q10

North Dealer, Both Vulnerable

| W | N | E | S |
|----|-----------|----|--------------|
| | 1C | 1H | 1S (5+cards) |
| 2H | X (resp.) | P | 2S |
| 3H | P | P | 3S |

All Passed

You led the heart jack and saw this dummy:

753
K73
AQJ
KJ84

Declarer ruffed the second heart with S8, and then played the diamond four to the queen and king. South ruffed partner's heart ace with the nine, crossed to dummy with a diamond (partner played the ten), and led a low spade to the four and jack.

It's your turn. Should you do something clever?

15. 93

AJ108

10865

Q43

North Dealer, NS Vulnerable

| W | N | E | S |
|---|-----|------------|-----|
| | 1D | 1S | 1NT |
| P | 3NT | All Passed | |

You led S9. Dummy put down:

A
Q43
AKQJ42
J109

The first trick was greeted by dummy's ace and partner's deuce (discouraging). Declarer played a club from dummy, which was covered by partner's king and declarer's ace. Declarer continued with another club and you took the trick with the queen. Trusting partner's signals, you shifted to the heart jack, which held, as partner contributed – guess what – another deuce. What the hell is going on?

How would you continue?

16. 953

KQ862

A52

108

South Dealer, NS Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------------|------|---|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 1D |
| 1H | 2NT* | P | 3NT |
| All Passed | | | |

* = Invitational

East led the seven of hearts. Dummy put down:

AQ8
A5
QJ10 97
KJ4

Declarer played small from dummy. Plan your defense.

17. 1073

J10

KJ62

Q1098

South Dealer, NS Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 1NT |
| P | 2C | P | 2S |
| P | 3NT | All Passed | |

You led the deuce of diamonds. Dummy showed up with:

Q5
KQ54
1087
A642

Partner produced the diamond ace. He returned the diamond nine, queen, king and eight. Now diamond jack, ten, four and three. How would you continue?

18. 9863

6
109764
974

Dealer North, NS Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|----|------------|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1D | 3H | 4H |
| P | 6D | All Passed | |

Your pathetic hand suddenly looked quite promising. Partner led the king of hearts and down came dummy:

KQJ
J974
AJ
AQJ6

Declarer won trick one in hand with the ace of hearts. When he played a diamond, partner produced the king! Opponents seemed to have a misunderstanding in the bidding!

Declarer cashed the jack of diamonds (partner discarding). He then played three rounds of clubs ending in dummy – the suit breaking 3-3. Now he played the 13th club. Could this be the moment of truth? What would you play on this trick?

19. AQ5

J1042

A5

A872

North Dealer, Nil

| | | | |
|---|---------|------------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1H (4+) | P | 1S |
| P | 1NT | P | 2NT |
| P | 3NT | All Passed | |

Partner led the jack of clubs. Dummy put down:

KJ1082
 Q75
 KQ4
 64

Plan the defense.

20. A52

1053

A94

Q1087

East Dealer, Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|--------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | P | P |
| P | 1S | P | 2D (natural) |
| P | 2NT | P | 3S |
| P | 4S | All Passed | |

East led the three of diamonds, which looked like a singleton. Dummy put down:

J96
QJ4
KQJ1063
2

How would you defend?

21. K

AK1092

AQJ92

J8

Dealer South, Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|-----|------------|---|-------------------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 2S (8-11, sound weak 2) |
| 4D* | 4S | P | P |
| X | All Passed | | |

* = 5+H and 5+D, isn't it wonderful that you have a descriptive convention?

You led the ace of hearts. Dummy came down with:

Q97
Q6
1075
A9764

Hmm...perhaps this could be a blood bath. You cashed the heart ace king, partner followed high low - you interpreted it as 4 cards. After some deliberation, you exited with CJ, C3 from partner, 5 from declarer (standard signals). Declarer now played S9 to your bare king. Wonderful! The contract is now set. What would you play next?

22. A64

8764
K7642
K

Dealer North, NS Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1C | P | 1S |
| P | 2C | P | 2NT |
| P | 3NT | All Passed | |

You led the four of diamonds. Dummy put down:

10
AQ93
Q98
AQ952

Declarer went into the think tank for some time and put up DQ, which scored, partner followed with DJ. Declarer then played a heart to his king and played C10. You covered perforce and dummy took the trick. Declarer then played another heart to his jack and advanced the C8. What would you discard on this trick?

23. 54
KQ108
J1087
962

West Dealer, Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|----|---|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| P | P | P | 1C |
| P | 1D | P | 2NT |
| P | 3H | P | 3NT |

All Passed

You led the five of spades. Dummy put down:

K82
7642
K942
105

Declarer played small from the table. Partner's S10 was taken by the SQ. Now a small diamond – you decided to follow small – and the D9 lost to partner's DQ. Partner returned H9, H5 from declarer. What would you play on this trick?

24. 10853

2

10872

AQJ10

North Dealer, Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1NT | P | 4H* |
| P | 4S | All Passed | |

Partner led the deuce of spades. Dummy was:

KQJ974
108
43
932

How would you plan the defense?

25. 108

AJ106

J108

9852

East Dealer, Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| W | N | E | S |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| | | P | 1S |
| P | 2H* | P | 2S |
| P | 2NT | P | 3NT |

All Passed

* = Game force

Partner led the ace of clubs. Dummy put down:

AJ954

K4

K72

1063

Playing standard signals (attitude before count), how would play to the first trick?