

DEFENSIVE STRATEGY

	J4 K643 AQ93 K65	
AK765 A82 8 J974		Q983 95 J2 Q10832

W	N	E	S		102 QJ107 K107654 A
1S	DbI	2S	4H		

Opening Lead: S Ace

West leads S Ace. East plays the S 9. What should West think? Normally, when third hand plays high-low and dummy has a doubleton, this shows that third hand has a doubleton and can overruff the dummy. BUT East raised partner so cannot have a doubleton. Thus, he is signalling that he owns the S Queen.

West can see three tricks: 2 in Spades and 1 in trumps. West has one other feature worthy of note. He has what we call "control of trump". That means that, holding the H Ace, he knows he will quickly get in when declarer pulls trump. Whenever one holds "control of trump", Ax or Kxx, leading a short suit is a good idea. West now leads D singleton. Declarer wins it and now draws trump. West wins H Ace immediately and now leads S 7, a high Spade, asking for partner to lead the higher ranking of the two remaining suits: Diamonds. East wins S Q and Now leads a D. West ruffs for down one.

	KQ84 63 KJ107 KJ10	
		2 J975 AQ6 A7654
S	N	
2S	4S	

West leads H 2. You are East and you play the H Jack. South (declarer) wins the H Ace. Declarer now leads C Queen and West plays the C 2. Should you (East) win the Ace? When declarer leads a suit, it is important that defenders give "count".

i.e. the player without the Ace plays a LOW card with an ODD number of cards in the suit and a HIGH card if you have an EVEN number of cards in the suit.

Note: For remembering purposes: LOW and ODD have three letters each which makes it easier to remember. Think three cards.

HIGH & EVEN have four cards each. Now use the short form for HIGH= HI. I try to think of HI...two letters: Two cards (most of the time)

If that defender had four, consider if declarer could have the resulting number of cards.

West has therefore shown 3 cards in the suit (by playing a low card). East wins the SECOND club now led by declarer. We win the Ace at the moment at which declarer is running out of the suit.

What should East play now in order to get West on lead to lead a Diamond?

It might seem that East should now lead a H if he thinks that West could have the H King.

S won the first trick with the H Ace. Thus he cannot have the H Q. Holding the Ace and Queen, he would have won the H Queen, enabling him to win TWO tricks in Hearts. If Declarer does not have the Q, then if West had the Heart King and Queen, W would have led the H King (against a suit contract, holding KQxx, you lead the King).

This means West cannot have the H King. S has it.

S has also shown up with the Club Queen. Hmm: H Ace and King, C Queen. This means he can have the S Jack but NO MORE High Card points as he can only have 6-10 HCP. Deduction: West has the S Ace.

East should now lead a S to West's Ace and West will now lead a D through dummy's KJ10, seeing this as the only hope for the defence to beat the contract. 4 tricks. Down one.

Here is the complete hand:

	KQ84	
	63	
	KJ107	
	KJ10	
A3		2
Q1085		J975
9832		AQ6
982		A7654
	J109765	
No one Vulnerable	AK4	
	54	
	Q3	

S has a poor 2S opener but it is up to you as opponents to figure it all out, even though he will normally have two of the top three honours or three of the top five in first or second

seat. If you had returned a H instead, declarer has time to discard a Diamond loser on the high Club in dummy and make her contract.

Hands by Mike Lawrence. Commentary by Barbara Seagram

THE DANGEROUS OPPONENT

				AKQJ109					
				109					
				87					
				QJ7					
3								2	
AQ32								J8765	
K10932								Q654	
K65								432	
N	E	S	W		87654				
					K4				
1S	P	2N*	P		AJ				
4S					A1098				

* Jacoby 2NT showing 13 or more points and at least 4 of partner's major. Some would argue that North should have rebid 3S showing extras but this North chose not to.

East chose to lead the D 4 since it is the stronger of the unbid suits. The hand looks like a piece of cake. Whenever this is the case, you must stop and ponder "What could possibly go wrong?" Declarer looks at dummy and realizes that the H King is a "vulnerable King". It is vulnerable because the Ace has not been played and if East leads a Heart "through" the H King, you must assume the worst and consider that West has the H Ace & Queen. If so, you will lose

One Diamond, two Hearts and the Club King. Down one.

You must decide all this at trick one, before playing a card from dummy. We will call East the "Dangerous Opponent" because if he gets on lead and leads a Heart, you are toast. Thus you have to prevent this from being possible.

At trick one, you must duck the Diamond Ace, allowing West to win the trick. This way, after you pull trump and lead the C Queen from your hand, West cannot get East on lead, even with a crowbar.

IF you win the D Ace at trick one, then when you lead the C Queen, it will lose to West's C King. West will now lead a small Diamond to East's Q and East will now lead a Heart and down you go.

Whenever you have a "vulnerable King," do not allow the player to the RIGHT of that card to get on lead as they are dangerous. If the player to the left gets on lead, then if THEY lead that suit, they cannot hurt you. That hand (West, in the hand above) is considered to be the "safe hand."



This is a picture of a "vulnerable" or worried King!!

Hand by Phillip Alder. Commentary by Barbara Seagram

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