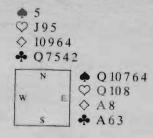
## Hold up - twice

East. Contract: 3NT by South.



o the opening club lead in order to preserve When South plays a small diamond to the disinterestedly follow with the seven. continue diamonds and when East follows ack in hand, hoping that West has the bare /est wins the second round of diamonds and ast can now clear the club suit and must ead to cash his winners. The defence make see clubs.

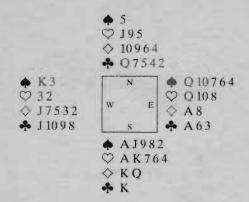
ciple involved on this hand. I In order to tions intact, it is often correct to allow ap trick on the first round of the suit. If id he can continue and clear the suit. 2 By ding your ace in the suit declarer attacks (in nds), you may persuade him that his best partner for Ax. This enables you to retain e partner's entry helps to clear your suit. 47 Game all; dealer South. Contract: 4H by South.



The bidding

West leads the knave of clubs, dummy plays low, East puts on the ace and South follows with the king. East now cashes the ace of diamonds, South following with the queen and West the two. How should East plan the defence?

47 Game all; dealer South. Contract: 4H by South.



The defence

Although West obviously didn't appreciate it when he was on lead, it is clear that the right defensive game is to play trumps (East only cashed the  $\diamondsuit$ A in case a losing diamond was discarded on the  $\clubsuit$ Q): but a low trump is not good enough. East must play the  $\heartsuit$ Q at trick three. Note the difference: when a low trump is played, declarer wins with dummy's nine and has no trouble in trumping two spades. The  $\spadesuit$ 9 is discarded on the  $\clubsuit$ Q. Subsequently trumps are drawn and he concedes just one more trick—the  $\spadesuit$ J. When the queen of trumps is returned, declarer has to win in his own hand and use the  $\heartsuit$ J9 for ruffing the spades. That leaves him with the same losing spade plus a losing trump.

The principle

When it is right to attack trumps it sometimes pays to play an honour rather than a small one. When this play forces declarer to win with a high honour in his own hand and ruff with high intermediates in dummy the gambit may be especially potent. As in the above hand, the trick often returns with a dividend.

♦ 82 ♥ KQ109 ♦ QJ63 ♣ J93

The bidding

S 14

West leads the king of partner encourages wit draws two rounds of tr another diamond. Ever now on lead; how shoul