

On Board 22 from the match against Brazil in Round Six, the younger brother, Morten Lund Madsen, found a brilliant defense:

NORTH

♠ K J 4
♥ 8 7 6
♦ K 10 6 2
♣ A Q 3

EAST

♠ A Q 7 6 5
♥ A K 4
♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 6



WEST

♠ 2
♥ Q 3 2
♦ J 9 8 5 4
♣ K J 9 5

SOUTH

♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ J 10 9 5
♦ 7
♣ 8 7 4 2

E-W vul., IMPs

WEST	NORTH <i>Morten</i>	EAST	SOUTH <i>Lars</i>
		1♠	pass
1NT ¹	pass	2NT ²	pass
3NT	all pass		

1. Forcing
2. 18-19 balanced

Against the same contract in the Closed Room, North chose to lead a diamond, so the Danish West had an easy task. Morten found the heart lead (1st hurdle), thereby giving nothing away. Declarer won in dummy, and after the diamond ace he continued with the queen. Morten ducked (2nd hurdle).

Declarer now shifted to the ten of clubs from dummy. Morten ducked again (3rd hurdle). A second club went to the queen and declarer took the heart continuation in hand and tried a spade to the queen — successfully, except that Morten had unblocked the jack (4th hurdle). Finally, declarer tried the ace of spades, and Morten completed his brilliancy, unblocking his king (5th hurdle). This defense left declarer with no chance for an endplay. One down!

Up until now, Lars and I have kept it a secret that on the very next board I failed to cover the ten of spades in the following layout: