

forcing game with ruff and discard

Dealer North. Contract: 4S by South.

♠ 9873
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ A K J 10 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6 4 2
 ♥ 10 7 3
 ♦ A Q J 9 4
 ♣ 5

♠ K Q J 10
 ♥ K 6 4
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ Q 9 8 2

9852
 0652
 64

14. Game all; dealer South. Contract: 4S by South.

♠ Q 3
 ♥ K Q 9 8 7
 ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ A J 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 5 4
 ♥ A 10 4 3
 ♦ 10 8 3 2
 ♣ K 7 5

The bidding

S	N
1♠	2♥
2♠	4♠

West leads the two of diamonds and notes that North's jump to four spades is exaggerated. East wins the first two diamond tricks with the king and the ace and continues with a third diamond to South's queen. South now plays the five of hearts. How should West plan the defence, and would it make any difference if he *knew* that South's heart was a singleton?

should have tried to play in no trumps from his
 e. As it happens that would have been a successful
 re concerned with four spades by South. It should
 East that a ruff and discard will not benefit
 can hardly have any losers in the side suits.
 if he holds only four spades his trump control is
 should, therefore, play a third round of diamonds.
 East withholds his ace of trumps until the third
 r must fail.

four trumps to the ace it is frequently correct to
 game. When there are no tricks available from the
 est defence often lies in the deliberate concession
 scard.

14. Game all; dealer South. Contract: 4S by South.

♠ 54 ♥ A 10 4 3 ♦ 10 8 3 2 ♣ K 7 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <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 3 ♥ K Q 9 8 7 ♦ 9 5 4 ♣ A J 4	♠ 8 6 2 ♥ J 6 2 ♦ A K 6 ♣ Q 10 8 6
	N											
W		E										
	S											

♠ A K J 10 9 7
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q J 7
 ♣ 9 3 2

The defence

It is quite possible that South holds a singleton heart, but even if West is certain of this he should not contribute the ace. If he does, that will be the end of the defence. Having ducked the heart West will not be able to recover this trick, but there is ample compensation when the defence make two club tricks to defeat the contract.

The principle

There is no firm rule to cover this situation. If the loss of one trick means that two may materialize later, it is usually best to duck. Taking the heart situation in isolation, KQ987 opposite the 5, there is no doubt that if West plays the ace on the first round, catching thin air, dummy makes two tricks. But if the ace is withheld dummy makes one trick. That is the point to which a defender should direct his attention.

15. Game all; dealer South. C

♠ A 9 2 ♥ 8 2 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ 8 7 6 4 2	♠ 7 5 3 ♥ Q 10 ♦ A K ♣ 10 9
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	N	
W		E
	S	

	S	W	
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The bidding

	S	W	
	1♣	Pass	
	2♣	Pass	
	Pass	Pass	

West leads the eight of hearts. East and continues with the king and ace with the ten of spades. How should