

ng to bed with an ace

South. Contract: 4S by South.

♠ Q3
 ♥ KQ987
 ♦ 954
 ♣ AJ4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 862
 ♥ J62
 ♦ AK6
 ♣ Q1086

♠ AKJ1097
 ♥ 5
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ 932

15. Game all; dealer South. Contract: 3S by South.

♠ 753
 ♥ Q104
 ♦ AKQ105
 ♣ 109

♠ A92
 ♥ 82
 ♦ 974
 ♣ 87642

	N	
W		E
	S	

The bidding

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West leads the eight of hearts. East wins with the knave of hearts and continues with the king and ace. South ruffs the third round with the ten of spades. How should West plan the defence?

South holds a singleton heart, but even if he should not contribute the ace. If he ends the defence. Having ducked the first round, he is unable to recover this trick, but there is a chance when the defence make two club tricks to

to cover this situation. If the loss of one trick may materialize later, it is usually best to duck this situation in isolation. KO987 opposite AKJ1097 that if West plays the ace on the first round, dummy makes two tricks. But if the ace is played on the second round, dummy makes one trick. That is the point to which a defender should pay attention.

Rejecting the overruff

15. Game all; dealer South. Contract: 3S by South.

♠ A 9 2	♠ 7 5 3	♠ 4
♥ 8 2	♥ Q 10 4	♥ A K J 9 7 5
♦ 9 7 4	♦ A K Q 10 5	♦ 6 3 2
♣ 8 7 6 4 2	♣ 10 9	♣ A 5 3

♠ K Q J 10 8 6	♠ 4
♥ 6 3	♥ A K J 9 7 5
♦ J 8	♦ 6 3 2
♣ K Q J	♣ A 5 3



The defence

West should decline to overruff, establishing the setting for a trump promotion. When South plays a trump honour, West wins and plays the ♣8 (signifying no interest in the suit) to his partner's ace. East now plays a fourth round of hearts, and West, who holds ♠92 over declarer's QJ86, must make one more trump trick. So the defence make 2 hearts, 1 club and 2 trumps – one down.

The principle

Do not be in a hurry to overruff if there is a chance of better things. Sometimes an intermediate card, like an 8 or 9, will become promoted if the defender retains his top trump. In the above hand, had West overruffed the ♠10 declarer would have made his contract. Say East wins the next trick with the ♣A and continues hearts. South can now afford to ruff high and draw trumps without hindrance.

Another position where it is invariably wrong to overruff is when a defender holds the A10x over declarer's KQJ. If declarer ruffs with one of his top honours the defender will make two trump tricks if he refuses to overruff.

16. E-W game; dealer South. Co

♠	Q 10 4
♥	7 4
♦	A K Q
♣	J 10 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

The bidding

S	W	N
1♠	2♥	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	

West leads the two top hearts. H
defence?