

Dealer South. Contract: 4H by South.

- ♠ 5
 - ♥ J95
 - ♦ 10964
 - ♣ Q7542
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |
- ♠ Q10764
 - ♥ Q108
 - ♦ A8
 - ♣ A63
- ♠ AJ982
 - ♥ AK764
 - ♦ KQ
 - ♣ K

532
098

obviously didn't appreciate it when he was on that the right defensive game is to play trumps the ♦A in case a losing diamond was discarded a low trump is not good enough. East must play three. Note the difference: when a low trump is wins with dummy's nine and has no trouble in trumps. The ♠9 is discarded on the ♣Q. Subsequently drawn and he concedes just one more trick – the queen of trumps is returned, declarer has to win and use the ♥J9 for ruffing the spades. That is the same losing spade *plus* a losing trump.

to attack trumps it sometimes pays to play an honour in his own hand and ruff with high dummy the gambit may be especially potent. As a result, the trick often returns with a dividend.

- ♠ KJ53
 - ♥ 743
 - ♦ K97
 - ♣ A107
- ♠ 82
 - ♥ KQ109
 - ♦ QJ63
 - ♣ J93

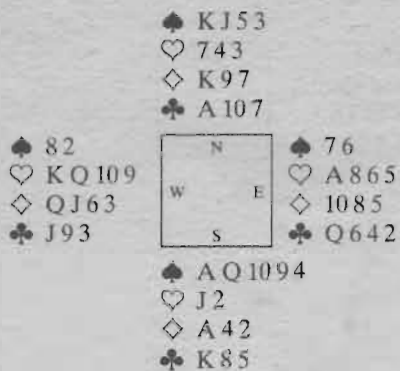


The bidding

- | | |
|----|----|
| S | N |
| 1♠ | 3♣ |
| 4♠ | |

West leads the king of hearts and continues the suit when his partner encourages with the eight. South ruffs the third heart, draws two rounds of trumps and then plays the ace, king and another diamond. Everyone follows to the diamonds and West is now on lead; how should he plan the defence?

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



The defence

West is caught in an elimination end-play. If he exits with a red suit the ruff and discard sees declarer home. So West must play a club, and with the ♣10 visible in dummy he must specifically play the ♣J – the only card that ensures defeat of the contract (had East been on play in this position the winning defence would have been a low club – not the queen). Here, as is often the case, the critical cards are the nine and ten. The key question is who holds them? If West makes the mistake of playing a low club, declarer can play low from dummy, capture East's queen and then finesse the ten on the next round.

The principle

It is often the right counter to an elimination and throw-in for a defender to exit with an honour card rather than one of the small ones. When you hold the nine as well (J9x or Q9x) and dummy holds A10x (K10x), it is mandatory to play your honour when under the dummy and a low card when over the dummy.

49 Game all; dealer West.



The bidding

S	W
—	1♦
2♠	3♥
4♠	Pass

West leads the king of hearts playing the three and South discarding a small club, gives should he plan the defence?