

ing away a high honour

East. Contract: 3NT by South.

♠ QJ6
 ♥ 74
 ♦ AK5
 ♣ 98653

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 987432
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 97642
 ♣ K

♠ A10
 ♥ A952
 ♦ QJ10
 ♣ AQ104

♣K on the second round of hearts. It is create an all-important entry for West. pts to overcome this development he he will have to play well to go only one by throwing West in with a heart after s, West having been forced to part with four hearts and one black-suit winner). East fails to discard his ♣K: declarer diamond and plays a club. When East owed to hold the trick.

establishing a long suit but is bereft of g any high card that could create an

13. Love all, dealer North. Contract: 4S by South.

♠ 9873
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ K7
 ♣ AKJ103

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A642
 ♥ 1073
 ♦ AQJ94
 ♣ 5

The bidding

S	W	N	E
—	—	1♣	1♦
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads his fourth highest diamond, the two, and East takes the first two tricks with the knave and ace. How should East plan the defence?

13. Love all; dealer North. Contract: 4S by South.

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

♠ K Q J 10	<table 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		♣ 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K 6 4											
♦ 8 3											
♣ Q 9 8 2											

♠ 5 4
♥ A 10 4 3
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ K 7 5

The bidding

S
1♠
2♠

West leads the two of diamonds. South's four spades is exaggerated with the king and the ace. South's queen. South no. West plan the defence, a *knew* that South's heart w

The defence

Perhaps North should have tried to play in no trumps from his side of the table. As it happens that would have been a successful move, but we are concerned with four spades by South. It should be obvious to East that a ruff and discard will not benefit declarer as he can hardly have any losers in the side suits. Furthermore, if he holds only four spades his trump control is insecure. East should, therefore, play a third round of diamonds. Now, provided East withholds his ace of trumps until the third round, declarer must fail.

The principle

When you hold four trumps to the ace it is frequently correct to play a forcing game. When there are no tricks available from the side suits the best defence often lies in the deliberate concession of a ruff and discard.