

directors come to me," she says.

Shanbrom has been married twice and met both husbands playing bridge. Her first died in 1985 and the second in 2000. "Both encouraged me to play bridge," she says.

There are three things that Shanbrom says make her happy.

"I love playing 4-2 fits," she says. "I also love using the red card. The third thing I love is finding a Vienna coup (a type of squeeze). They come up more often than you would think."

Shanbrom has advice for advancing players. "The most important thing is counting," she says. "By that I mean counting points and distribution. It's hard for most players to do."

What changes has Shanbrom seen over the years? "I play few systems," she says, "but some are the same as the old days — they just put new names on them. Now they call it 2/1 with constructive major-suit raises. I've been playing that for years. There are also many less psychic bids now than there were in the old days."

Shanbrom plays with many different partners, but she has 10 regulars.

"I have a little book, and I write down my games," she says. She plays mostly at three bridge clubs in the Fort Lauderdale area.

How is the 90-year-old Shanbrom able to play so often? "I have lots of stamina," she says. "It comes from good, clean living." □

# Thinking on Defense



Jim Priebe

## The play that pays

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

  

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

Defenders are usually fearful of setting up a trick that declarer has no way of making on his own. On this deal, the reward more than compensates for the loss.

West is defending against 4♠ after this auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West leads the ♥A, dummy follows low, East signals with the jack, and South plays the 6.

West can see three tricks, but where is the fourth to come from? It looks as though declarer has only one heart, and if West continues hearts, he will set up dummy's queen. However, if declarer has only five spades, the defense has a chance.

West must overcome his fear of setting up dummy's ♥Q and continue with the king. Declarer ruffs and sets about drawing trumps. West must bide his time and not take the ace of trumps too early. He waits until dummy's third trump is played, wins his ace, and continues a third heart. East unblocks the ♥10. Declarer wins the ♥Q in dummy and crosses to his hand to draw the last trump. When he takes the diamond finesse, West will win and cash two hearts for down two. Declarer has to give up on the diamond finesse and any chance of making the contract to hold his result to down one.

If West wins his ace of trumps too early, say on the first or second round of the suit, declarer can postpone drawing the last trump. Taking the diamond finesse while he still has a trump in dummy will cope nicely with further heart leads. □



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