

Example 18

You will defeat many contracts, in quite an unexpected way, if you follow this principle of defence:

Be very reluctant to part with controlling cards in declarer's long side suit.

Sometimes this form of play will cause the declarer to follow a completely wrong line. Suppose that a side suit is divided as follows:

6 3
K 8 7 4 J 2
A Q 10 9 5

Declarer finesses the queen. If West wins, the rest of the play may be simple. Suppose, instead, that West ducks. South will cash the ace and follow with the ten. Expecting the king to fall from East, he will ruff low in dummy. East will overruff, the suit is still not established, and the contract may be in ruins.

On the following hand South is not deceived, but the defenders can beat the contract by a series of clever moves.

♠ A J 9 8 6 3
♥ K 3 2
♦ K 6 3
♣ 3

♠ 4 2 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ 10 9 8 4 ♣ A 5 4 2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;">E</td><td style="width: 25%;">S</td><td style="width: 25%;">W</td></tr> </table> ♠ K Q 10 7 ♥ 9 8 5 ♦ A Q J 7 ♣ 7 6	N	E	S	W
N	E	S	W		

♠ 5
♥ A Q J 10
♦ 5 2
♣ K Q J 10 9 8

South is in four hearts and the defenders start with three rounds of diamonds, forcing South to ruff. South leads the king of clubs and West, knowing that declarer has length in clubs, declines to part with the ace. South follows with the queen of clubs and West ducks again. On the jack of clubs West plays low, dummy discards, and East ruffs. The position is now:

♠ A J 9 8
♥ K 3 2
♦ —
♣ —

♠ 4 2 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ 8 ♣ A	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;">E</td><td style="width: 25%;">S</td><td style="width: 25%;">W</td></tr> </table> ♠ K Q 10 7 ♥ 9 8 ♦ Q ♣ —	N	E	S	W
N	E	S	W		

♠ 5
♥ A Q J
♦ —
♣ 10 9 8

East completes the defence by leading a diamond at this point, presenting South with a ruff-and-discard which is fatal to him because he has inadequate trumps. Whether he ruffs in dummy or in his own hand, he cannot ruff out the ace of clubs, draw trumps and cash the winning clubs.*

* There is a very similar hand in my book, *The Expert Game*, but I could see no reason not to repeat the example here. The play is certainly more advanced than the majority in the present book, but the basic principle—hang on to your controls in the long side suit—is easy to understand.—T.R.