

TACTICAL MOVES IN PLAY

South plays low from dummy, and while the orthodox card for East is the 10 this is an occasion on which a false card of the Jack might be tried in order to lull South into false security.

Whichever card is played, South wins with the King and plays King and another diamond. This is the critical point. Although the odds are against a 4-1 break in diamonds, South needs only five tricks from the suit and cannot possibly lose the contract if he finesses the 10. If he does not realize the danger in clubs and plays the top diamond from dummy, sooner or later West will gain the lead and play a club through North's vulnerable Q 9.

ATTACKING THE DANGER HAND

On many no-trump hands declarer has to force out two defensive winners before he can run his tricks. It may be essential to force out those winners in the right order. Usually the first assault has to be made on what is eventually going to be the danger hand.

Dealer, South. Love all

	♠ 8 2										
	♥ J 10 5										
	♦ A 10 9 6 5 2										
	♣ J 6										
♠ Q 9 5 4 3	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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		♠ J 10 6
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♥ A 6 3		♥ 9 8 7 4									
♦ 8 3		♦ K 7									
♣ K 9 2		♣ Q 7 4 3									
	♠ A K 7										
	♥ K Q 2										
	♦ Q J 4										
	♣ A 10 8 5										

South plays in 3NT and West opens ♠ 4. South holds off the first spade and wins the second. Now observe what will happen if he makes the normal play of establishing his long suit first: a diamond finesse will lose to East, who will clear the spades;

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THE DANGER HAND

declarer will still need a trick from hearts and when West comes in with ♥ A he will make two more spades to defeat the contract.

After the play to the first two tricks has placed West with the long spades, South should play first on the suit where West may have the entry. It is clear that West can be kept out of the lead in diamonds, but not in hearts if he holds the Ace. At trick 3 South must lead a heart. West will probably hold off, to conserve his entry. Then South can turn to diamonds with his ninth trick assured.

CONSERVING PARTNER'S ENTRY

On the last hand there was nothing the defence could do if the declarer's timing was right, but often the junior defender, as it were, can protect his partner's entry. There is a lesson for both sides in the following hand:

Dealer, South. Love all

♠ 8 2
 ♥ J 10 5
 ♦ K J 9 6 5 2
 ♣ J 6

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

♠ A K 9
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ Q 10 7 3
 ♣ A 10 8

Again South plays in 3NT. In many respects the hand resembles the last one, but here it will be observed that East is the player with the long spades and South has to force out two Aces, not knowing who has which.

West begins with a short suit lead of ♠ J. East plays an encour-