



It's Your Play

By Mike Lawrence

The "Play-Too-Fast" Series — Part 1

When you declare a contract, you need to plan not only the current trick, but the succeeding tricks as well. In this series, you will be shown a deal and how it was played. At the end, you will be asked to determine where the play went wrong and what should have been done about it.

Dir: West ♠ 7
 Vul: N-S ♥ A K Q J
 ♦ Q 10 8 5
 ♣ A 8 6 4

♠ A J 6 5
 ♥ 7 6 5 4
 ♦ K J 9 3
 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dbf	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Here is how the play actually went. West led the ♠K and South won the ace. South thought that if he could ruff three clubs in his hand, he might make 12 tricks. So he continued with a club to the

ace and a club ruff.

South saw the need to knock out the ♦A, so he started that suit by leading a diamond to dummy's queen. South was surprised when East won the ace and continued with the ♠9. Dummy was forced to ruff with the ♥J.

From this point on, South could not make the contract.

The complete deal:

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

South could not draw trumps effectively since they divided 4-1. South was also unable to take any diamond tricks since East held the singleton ace. East, of course, was quick to return a spade every time he got in, forcing dummy to ruff with a trump honor, thus setting up a trick for his ♥10 9 8 2 holding. A brutal deal.

Having seen all four hands, perhaps you could do better. South erred, as so often is the case, at trick one. South should let the ♠K win the first trick. The defenders will be unable to force spade ruffs in the dummy. South will be able to ruff at least one club in his hand and set up the diamonds.

South will certainly take 10 tricks and may take 11 if the defenders err along the way.

Should South give up the possibility of making 12 tricks? That is a question you should judge for yourself.

Keep in mind that West *did* make a takeout double, so there is a fair chance that hearts will divide poorly. The important point of this deal is that South should consider allowing West to hold the first trick.

Bridge Deng al

Deng Xiaoping's private pe-
 lied his public image of a quiet
 man — and he was a strong pro-
 bridge.

These are among the memo-
 late Chinese leader recounted
 Wei-Sender in an interview with
 Jourdain of London's *Daily Tel-*
 the occasion of Deng's death,
 spoke to Wei-Sender during a tour
 in Israel.

Wei-Sender, who has won fe-
 bridge titles for the United S-
 born in Beijing. She partnere-
 bridge on visits to her homelan-
 and 1983.

In contrast to Deng's pub-
 Wei-Sender said, at the bridg-
 was jolly, talkative and witty
 spoken way. His family frequen-
 to watch him play.

Deng was a chain-smoker
 very short cigarettes. "Why
 cigarettes so short?" asked W-
 on one occasion. "Because I
 thinks I will smoke less," he

Sto

Eric Long never played
 hands for my classes, and he

At a tournament in Victor-
 third trick in dummy, but m-
 and tabled the ♠A. I called
 She monitored the deal until

After the round was over,
 replied, "You know, I thought
 she played the ace I thought
 whoever plays the queen of

As I started to explain the
 big trouble when you called

Sadly, Eric passed away
 his many friends. I was plea-
 Long Memorial Pairs, a 99-