



winning defence  
david p. gallant

You will be doing well if you score full marks on this problem because, for the first time, you have to rely on a hypothetical count.

NORTH  
S A 10 9 8 7 4 2  
H  
D J 7 6  
C J 10 6  
EAST  
S K 5  
H Q 10 9 6  
A K Q 5  
C 9 5 3

BIDDING  
S W N E  
1C - 1S Db1.  
3C 3H 4H --  
6C All pass

Your partner leads the three of diamonds and the six is played from dummy. How do you plan the defense?

What do you know?

Firstly, that South has one diamond (on the bidding

he can hardly). Secondly, that he very likely has all seven outstanding trumps. But what is his spade holding? That is the crucial matter. If declarer has more than one spade he will be unable to avoid a spade loser, but if he has a singleton he will be able to set up dummy's spade suit for all the discards he needs. Since there is danger only if declarer's shpe is 1-4-1-7, you must defend on the assumption that it is so.

Declarer will be unable to make use of dummy's spades if you can force him to ruff a heart on the table at trick two. Partner will have to have the heart ace to give you a chance, but then declarer might have K J hearts, in which case, if he makes the right guess, his jack will force partner's ace and he will come to twelve tricks by way of a cross-ruff. He might guess wrong however, if he thought your partner had led from the king of diamonds. Your best chance is to win the first trick with the diamond ace and lead the ten of hearts. Declarer will be suspicious, but he may suspect you of the wrong deception and go up with the king of hearts. The missing hands:

WEST  
S Q 6 3  
H A 8 5 4 3  
D 10 8 4 3 2  
C -

SOUTH  
S J  
H K J 7 2  
D 9  
C A K Q 8 7 4 2

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