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AMAZING QUEEN

Winning championships with your queens

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The Bols Tip author of Queen Defence

PREFACE

I was watching the latest international events when I finalized this bridge book. I intended my book to benefit bridge players, from club players to world class. The crucial hands that decided winners looked familiar. Similar stereotypes were in this collection. It was a selection from around 2,000 hands and twenty years of bridge column writing. It comprised the most memorable hands, featuring world champions and experts. The writings were all first time in print.

Bridge attracted the two richest people on earth, distinguished professionals, corporate and government heads, and leisurely folks. Its enjoyment went beyond playing time. Your bidding and play decisions depended on partners, teammates, opponents, and the bridge climate at playing time. The choices were often infinite and fascinating.

I started playing bridge around age ten, and chased bridge books available in my city libraries. I won a national open pairs with a first time partner when I was eighteen. It was the first tournament I competed. I defended the title playing with a different first time partner the next year. I refrained from competitive bridge for some years, until my office moved to a walk from the bridge club. In 1990, I won my first high stakes Rubber Bridge in Taipei. It was at that time the only Asian city taking two silvers in the Bermuda Bowl. My partners were all strangers in an afternoon. In early nineties I represented Hong Kong in international events after winning many national open teams. I won prestigious events in Taipei, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

My newspaper column in the Hong Kong Economic Journal started in 1989. In 1991 I captained Hong Kong to win the single Far East Asian berth in the Bermuda Bowl. We surprised our competitors and ourselves, when we missed a quarterfinal spot by a slight margin. I was probably the only Asian to submit a Bols Tip. My 1993 Tip of Queening your Defence introduced an idea of queen hiding and seeking with declarers. It incorporated dropping your queen, a real or sham sacrifice to divert declarer from his winning line. It was similar to the Queen Sacrifice in chess, where many books devoted on the subject. In 2010 the Internal Bridge Press Association awarded the annual best declarer play and best defence. Both awards went to a Queen Sacrifice similar to my Tip. I decided to fulfill my earlier mission to publish a bridge book.

Chapter 1, 'The explorer', was devoted to bidding. Swings hinged on difficult to reach, but odds on games and slams. It was vital to explore. The hands featured off-shape doubles and tilted openings, slams with single aces and meager strengths, raising a doubled Six Hearts to Seven Hearts to make, and opening a grand slam with two holes. There were lessons on part score doubles and conventions.

Chapter 2, 'Treasuring your queen', was for declarers. It commenced with hands of unnecessary finesse and mini skirt finesse, to techniques of deploying your queens, to a camouflage duck, and to sham Queen or Jack Sacrifices. In chess, a sham Queen Sacrifice was a tactic to sacrifice your queen to win a game. I categorized these

techniques as a Queening play, borrowed from prawn queening in chess. When a prawn reached the opposing baseline, it was transformed into queens. This book deployed the term Queen or Queening throughout, encouraging players to win championships. The status would be reachable if you empowered the technique of Queening, the skillful bidding and play surrounding the queens.

The response to an opening lead was as important as the lead. An often-ignored area was exit cards in mid-defence. Chapter 3, 'A golden opening', comprised these subjects. Examples were leading the queen with three-card or with AQ five-card in a suit, ducking an opening lead holding KQ or QJ, blocking fourth best leads, doubleton honour trump leads, and singleton leads that gave the show away.

Ruffing and forcing were effective techniques to produce defence winners. Chapter 4, 'A ruffing master plan', reminded defenders to time their ruffs and their forcing defence. You sat safely with KJx behind AQ10, but the only defence was to give partner a ruff. Two world champions missed the defence. These techniques relied on accurate signaling. The chapter ended with intriguing defence signals.

Entries and communication often decided the fate of 3NT contracts. Chapter 5, 'Creative entries', described the chasing of tricks competed between declarers and defenders. A defender massaged a dummy forcing it to release premature winners in a suit. Declarer lost tricks in that suit conceding the contract. A defender jettisoned all four of his jacks, creating an entry for partner to defeat a game. In 'The Archimedes principle', a defender refused to lift up declarer's ninth trick in 3NT, although it set up the long suit held by his partner.

Chapter 6, 'Queen defence', featured hands analogous to my 1993 Bols Tip. It comprised hands where defenders hid their queens, dropped their queens as camouflages, or extracted a safe queen from opponents. The last hand featured a Queen Sacrifice working against the same world champion for a second time. Readers might rejoice that the spectacular plays were often performed by less known players against renowned experts.

Chapter 7, 'Queen play', featured enhanced versions of my 1993 Bols Tip. It began with entry blocking Queen plays by defenders, similar to a sham Queen Sacrifice in chess. An example was dummy had J9 trumps and you had queen five-card behind declarer. The only defence was to play the queen. There were techniques to locate key defence queens or jacks. The chapter concluded with an example when declarer needed not locate the trump queen to make a slam.

Chapter 8, 'Trump soldiers', focused on defence with trump strengths. Trumps included KJ107 and J10432 against slams, QJ42 and KJ93 against games, and Q74 and Q92 against slams. In the later category, defenders had to Queen Sacrifice to beat the slams, a variation of the Bols Tip. The sole question for defenders, as in 'Sleeping with your enemy', was to cover or not with their trump honours. The hands illustrated that while a formula was unavailable, there were often enlightening clues. The book ended with 'A

submarine in heaven', a slam where a defender faced a lead with J1098 in dummy. He held AKQ six-card. The only defence was a divine duck of the jack.

The hands featured players from all continents. There were brilliance and misses performed by well-known names. For less known folks, only their brilliance was reported. Obviously I played a few hands. Again, only brilliance compatible with world champions was reported. Enjoy this book, dedicated to players who would like to Queen their bidding, play, lead, defence, and enjoyment in bridge.

I wish to thank the publisher for printing this work, and to players who had played with or against me. Some were world champions. Their complimentary comments remained in my heart. I maintained my record of not having lost to a world champion. I met them in the qualifying rounds.

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VOCABULARY AND TIPS

VOCABULARY LIST

- Queening – win championships by skillful bidding and play surrounding the queens.
 - Queen Bid – evaluate your queens to reach the par contract.
 - Queen Defence – defend skillfully with the queens.
 - Queen Discovery – locate a queen in opponents.
 - Queen Drop – drop a queen unnecessarily knowing it was doomed.
 - Queen Duck – play a small card holding AQ, KQ or QJ of a suit.
 - Queen Hiding – hide a crucial queen.
 - Queen Lead – lead a queen unnaturally holding AQ, Q three-card, or similar.
 - Queen Play – play skillfully with the queens.
 - Queen Run – assess the positions of queens before running into another contract.
 - Queen Sacrifice – sacrifice a queen.
 - Queen Seeking – play a queen unnecessarily or unnaturally.
 - Queen Underlead – lead small unnaturally holding AQ, KQ or QJ of a suit.
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- Doomed Queen – a queen that could be naturally finessed or dropped.
 - Real Queen Sacrifice – Queen Sacrifice hoping for an advantage.
 - Sham Queen Sacrifice – Queen Sacrifice preceding a win.

TIPS IN AMAZING QUEEN

The following were tips derived from the hands.

Tips for Bidding in Chapter 1

- Read this book with partners.
- Win championships by queening your bidding and play.
- Discuss bidding styles with partners.
- Upgrade your hand with honours in sequence.
- Upgrade you hand with tens and nines.
- Be creative with your take-out doubles.
- Explore by bidding rather than passing.
- Consider a lower bid in non-competitive situations.
- Consider a higher bid in competitive situations.
- Bid a five card major before a six card minor.
- Open sub-minimum No-trumps.
- Cue bid before asking key cards.
- Count slams tricks with crucial queens.

Overcall strong one clubs.
Overcall relay bids.
Refrain from a penalty double with a balanced hand.
Refrain from announcing good trumps with a penalty double.
Prepare defence to No-trump openings.
Prepare conventions in competitive situations.
Prepare defence to conventions and new gadgets.

Tips for declarer in Chapter 2

Develop skillful play surrounding the queens.
Confirm the need of your finesses.
Explore a Queen Discovery.
Take mini finesses for communication.
Create entries by a Queen Sacrifice.
Crossruff when a defender showed strong or long trumps.
A camouflage with a queen required relevant spot cards.

Tips for leads and responses in Chapter 3

Consider an opening Queen Lead.
Consider a Queen Lead for entries in partner.
Consider a Queen Lead or Underlead when endplayed.
Lead a short major against 3NT with a weak hand.
Lead a small trump from honour small or two small.
Replace the principle of restricted choice with your own choice.
Defeat a Dentist coup with a Queen Lead.
Defeat a Bath coup or suit establishment with a Queen Duck.
Examine your third best when making fourth best leads.
Avoid revealing singleton leads.

Tips for ruffing and forcing defence in Chapter 4

Organize a ruffing plan.
Avoid ruffs with natural winners.
Pay attention to long side suits of opponents.
Pay attention to the play of trumps by opponents.
Create entries by ruffing winners.
Adopt a forcing defence with good trumps and a good side suit.
Develop advanced attitude signals.
Pay attention to penalty doubles.

Tips for entries and communication in Chapter 5

Sacrifice your queen or jack to avoid an endplay.
Chase your 3NT tricks before the opponents.
Develop a suit only if there were side suit entries.
Examine entries to attack communication of opponents.
Explore creative entries in weak hands by unconventional ducks.
Induce opponents to release premature winners.

Tips for Queen Defence in Chapter 6

Identify Doomed Queens.
Drop a Doomed Queen earliest.
Perform the Queen Drop smoothly.
Drop the ten or nine to hide a Doomed Queen in partner.
Display high cards to hide a crucial queen.
Divert declarer away from playing a suit with a Doomed Queen.

Tips for Queen Play in Chapter 7

Play a queen in the jack doubleton suit of opponents when endplayed.
Discover a crucial queen from a busy defender.
Discover a crucial queen from an opening lead.
Discover a crucial trump by playing side suits.
Disturb a discovery play of a declarer.
Discover a winning line without locating a crucial queen.

Tips for defending with strong trumps in Chapter 8

Refrain from overruffing to maintain trump length.
Cover an honour trump when you could be in control.
Refrain from covering with an honour trump when you needed to draw trumps.
Refrain from covering with an honour trump when declarer had to ruff.
Refrain from covering with an honour trump to avoid an endplay.
Shorten the trumps of declarers to prevent a successful finesse.
Defeat a Morton's fork by forcing a premature discard.

CHAPTER 1

The explorer

Chapter 1 was devoted to bidding. Swings hinged on difficult to reach, but odds on games and slams. It was vital to explore. The hands featured off-shape doubles and tilted openings, slams with single aces and meager strengths, raising a doubled Six Hearts to Seven Hearts to make, and opening seven with two holes. There were lessons on part score doubles and conventions. As with all hands in this book, the winning decisions involved evaluations surrounding crucial queens.

The names of bridge coups and gadgets were not easy to remember. This book introduced a concept of winning championships by skillful bids and plays surrounding your queens. There were new strategies. To facilitate readers we provided in the beginning of this book a list of vocabulary and tips, which summarized the lessons in the hands. We repeated the relevant vocabulary in the beginning of each chapter.

Vocabulary

Queening – win championships by skillful bidding and play surrounding the queens.

Queen Bid – evaluate your queens to reach the par contract.

Queen Run – assess the positions of queens before running into another contract.

An off shape double

2009 BBO Internet		♠ Q864	
IMP pairs		♥ J8764	
W/ NS vulnerable		♦ 852	
		♣ 3	
	♠ 975		♠ K2
	♥ 52		♥ AQ103
	♦ A97		♦ KQJ106
	♣ QJ1094		♣ 74
		♠ AJ103	
		♥ K9	
		♦ 43	
		♣ AK852	

West	North	East	South
China	Netherlands	USA	Clement
Pass	Pass	1♦	Double
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Double

Bridge attracted the two richest people on the planet, corporate heads and billionaires, renowned professionals, country and city heads, and happy living folks. Bidding often decided bridge winners. Bidding decisions depended on partners, opponents, and the bridge climate at playing time. The choices were infinite and fascinating.

Many internet players in the Bridge Base Online (BBO) did not reveal their true names or countries. The better players classified themselves as expert or world class. I used to choose an expert table playing with first time partners. They played a natural five-card major system with Two Clubs as the strong bid. Weak-two bids, transfers after No-trumps, key card Blackwood, and Negative Double up to Three Spades and higher, were the norm.

When I met opponents playing a strong club system I overcalled light, sometimes with two-suited conventions. You occupied their valuable bidding space. These were the weak links of these systems, and the reason behind a virtual end or ban of the Forcing Pass system. In this hand an overcall of 1♠ or 2♣ was deficient. I elected an off shape double. The risk was lower when the higher suit was spades. North bid twice with a queen and a jack. Matching his vigour was West who sacrificed in Five Diamonds. Four Spades had three losers but not enough winners. Declarer could ruff a second club and played a spade to his jack. He cashed the ace of spades, and ruffed two clubs in dummy. The tally was six trumps, two clubs and the ace of hearts, one short of making the contract.

In Five Diamonds doubled, I resisted the tempting lead of the ace of clubs, and led a trump to cut down ruffs in dummy. Declarer put up the ace in dummy, an error. He led the queen of clubs to my king. I led another diamond to the king. Declarer led a club and I put up the eight signaling for a spade return, expecting North to ruff. North petered in trumps.

North ruffed and promptly returned a small spade to the king and my ace. I led a small spade to North's queen. North returned a heart and declarer guessed putting up the queen, losing to my king. He could ruff a heart in dummy and lost another heart for four down minus 800. My attempt to create entries to partner worked. He reinforced the defence with his lone queen and lone jack. Declarer should go down less by a skillful play surrounding his queens, or by leading clubs from hand.

A long suit double

2008 BBO Internet
IMP pairs
W/ Both vulnerable

♠ K		
♥ 82		
♦ K10654		
♣ 109765		
	♠ Q1084	♠ 32
	♥ K643	♥ QJ1095
	♦ A7	♦ QJ98
	♣ A82	♣ 43
		♠ AJ9765
		♥ A7
		♦ 32
		♣ KQJ

West	North	East	South
World class	Expert	World class	Clement
1♣	Pass	1♥	Double
2♥	3♦	Double	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Double

I thought my hand too strong for an overcall. A take-out double would be less risky with a spade suit. Partner competed voluntarily to 3♦, inviting a double by East. 3♠ had five losers. Fortunately the bid pushed West to try a game in hearts. I doubted whether a world class bid like West or East. Their bids defied the Queen Bid principle. They should discount their queens in the major suits. Some players overrated themselves in the self-classification system at BBO.

Four Hearts went two down minus 10 IMPs, losing two spades and one trick each in the other suits. My take-out double induced misconceptions on opponents. They construed my hand to be rich in spades and diamonds. West thought the double of 3♦ by East showed strength. As my partner showed strength in diamonds, I was confident to double 4♥.

A formula for Three No-trump

2009 BBO Internet
IMP pairs
N/ Both vulnerable

♠ 75		
♥ AQ		
♦ Q5		
♣ QJ109863		
	♠ A	♠ Q109862
	♥ K1087	♥ 32
	♦ J98432	♦ AK6
	♣ 52	♣ AK
		♠ KJ43
		♥ J9654
		♦ 107
		♣ 74

West	North	East Clement	South
	1♣	Double	1♥
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	

This hand showed another effective take-out double with a one-suited strong hand. Instead of overcalling One Spade I chose a double. With a new partner it was good practice to inform him of your style in take-out doubles. Many overcalled One Spade and jumped in the next round, doubtful with a queen-headed broken suit, landing in the hopeless game in spades.

After two voluntary bids in diamonds by partner and lack of support in hearts from North, I was confident that partner had reasonable diamonds and positional stoppers in hearts. This was a magical match with my hand, a formula for 3NT. Of 16 tables only my table bid the no-trump game. It was fortunate that diamonds broke 2-2. If there was an adverse break, the king of hearts might be on side for nine tricks.

Stranger in the night

2009 BBO Internet
 IMP pairs
 S/ Nil

♠ 543
 ♥ 9763
 ♦ 42
 ♣ J432

♠ A1098
 ♥ KQ108
 ♦ A95
 ♣ 97

♠ J76
 ♥ -
 ♦ QJ8763
 ♣ A1065

♠ KQ2
 ♥ AJ542
 ♦ K10
 ♣ KQ8

West	North	East	South
Clement	Expert	Expert	Expert
			1♥
Double	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT			

Few would take-out double as West. He held opener's suit. The alternative was a 1♠ overcall with four- card. Your partner should be aware of your style of take-out doubles and overcalls. We were strangers in the night. I felt I could stand a minor suit response from partner. If opponents played a weak jump-raise after a take-out double, they might silence East. However they could be in trouble if East made a Responsive Double, as I would pass. After 3♦, 3NT was the value bid, as partner should have strength in clubs.

Unaware of my strong stoppers, North naturally led a heart. South played his ace and returned a heart to my king. I played ace of diamonds and a small diamond. There was no defence and I scored 430, the only table of sixteen playing 3NT. Even if North chose the best lead of a club, declarer scored nine tricks by taking a right view in the diamonds. Three tables bid and made 5♦. Many West passed in the first round making it difficult for East-West to reach a game. They ignored upgrading their hands, having two tens, three nines, two eights, and the ♥KQ108 behind an opening 1♥. These cards were critical for success in a 21- points 3NT.

Running with Forrest Gump

2009 Yeh Brothers Cup final
Netherlands v Sweden
S/ Nil

♠ AJ6
♥ AQ53
♦ A
♣ A10973

♠ KQ1032
♥ 1042
♦ J103
♣ 62

♠ 874
♥ 86
♦ Q8642
♣ QJ5

♠ 95
♥ KJ97
♦ K975
♣ K84

West	North	East	South
Bakkeren	Nystrom	Bertens	Bertheau
			Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	2♦	Double
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double		
Fredin	Drijver	Fallenius	Brink
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♥	1NT		

Styles of overcalls varied. Bidding in the second room was relatively quiet. 1NT scored 120. In the first room the light overcall backfired. East ran from 1NT redoubled to 2♦, doubled, to 2♠, doubled.

South led the eight of hearts to the jack and queen. North cashed the ace of diamonds, the ace of hearts, and led a heart. South ruffed and led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. North returned a club to partner's jack, and ruffed the return of a diamond. North played his last heart. Declarer ruffed with the ten. South discarded a club. Declarer played the king of spades to the ace. North led a third club. South overruffed declarer for five down plus 1100.

This was the first session. Netherlands resurrected. They won by over 100 IMPs to collect US\$76,000. East-West could have made a Queen Run. The lack of side queens incapacitated declarer. Two Hearts or Two Diamonds, or 1NT redoubled, would be less

damaging. If East, having equal length in the unbid suits, passed the redouble, South or West might bid. Alternatively, East bid 2♣. Let West run. In the movie Forrest Gump, the main character ran effectively. It was instructive. Make the strong hand lead to mitigate the damages. In the 2011 European Open Championship, a world champion pair ran from 1♥ to 1NT, to 2♣, and to 2♦ for six down minus 1400. Their teammates played 5♦ minus 50. 2♣ would be minus 500. 1♥ would be minus 800.

Spotting spot cards

2007 Bermuda Cup final
Norway v USA2
S/ Nil

♠ K86
♥ 543
♦ KQ965
♣ 74

♠ QJ743
♥ 97
♦ A32
♣ QJ8

♠ -
♥ AQJ2
♦ J1074
♣ K10962

♠ A10952
♥ K1086
♦ 8
♣ A53

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Garner	Helness	Weinstein
Pass	2♠	Double	1♠
2NT(minor)	Pass	3♣	Pass
Zia	Tundal	Rosenberg	Groetheim
Pass	2♠	Double	1♠

This was a significant hand in the final. It was tempting for West to pass after a take-out double of 2♠. The small spot cards of ♠743 and the lack of a top honour in spades were worries. You could not play trumps effectively and held a balanced hand. Helgemo judged to request Helness to declare in a minor suit, the Queen Run. In 3♣ South led his singleton diamond. Declarer played small from dummy. North took with his queen and returned a club. South ducked to the eight in dummy. Declarer passed the nine of hearts to the ten. South cashed the ace of clubs and led a third round. Declarer had losers in the red kings for minus 50.

In the other room Zia sat West. He passed the double of 2♠, declared by Groetheim. West led a heart, partner's suit, to the jack and king. Declarer advanced his lone diamond. West rose up with his ace and led a second heart to the queen. East cashed the ace of hearts. West discarded a diamond. East attacked clubs. Declarer took with his ace. He led the ten of spades, covered by the jack and king. Declarer pitched two clubs on the king and queen of diamonds. West ruffed the queen and scored one more trump trick. Declarer made his contract gaining 10 IMPs. If West did not play the ace on the first diamond, declarer should score five trump tricks fulfilling his contract. While the positions of the red queens were crucial, the black queens in West were inarticulate.

Norway defeated USA to become world champion for the first time. They lost two tight finals, to Netherlands in 1993, and to USA2 in 2001. In 2009, Zia won his first world team championship.

Landy for a brave heart

2009 BBO Internet
IMP pairs
N/ EW vulnerable

♠ A97 ♥ 10852 ♦ - ♣ J86543	♠ J102 ♥ K4 ♦ KQ543 ♣ KQ7 ♠ 843 ♥ Q7 ♦ A10762 ♣ A109
♠ KQ65 ♥ AJ963 ♦ J98 ♣ 2	

West	North	East	South
Expert	Clement	Expert	Expert
	1NT	Pass	3NT

The queens were instrumental to my success in this hand. I upgraded my hand a point to bid 1NT. My queens, cohabiting with the kings, were bonus. I usually had better diamonds for this bid, or more tens and nines. The favourable vulnerability and the lack of major suits urged me to a bid more blocking than 1♦. East could venture a Landy convention for the majors. Being vulnerable he opted to pass. Some openers bid 1NT with a six-card minor. Holding a singleton, East could miss a vulnerable game.

The natural lead of a heart provided me the ninth trick. I was lucky to find two relevant aces in partner and escaped the lead of a spade, which would be one down. As defenders had nine hearts they should not complain on the lead. Half of the field and eight tables

were in 4♥ East-West. Five tables sacrificed in 5♦ doubled two down. We were the only North-South with a plus score.

Michaels with a Yarborough

2009 Venice Cup		♠ J10875	
Semi-final		♥ 109742	
France v China		♦ 97	
S/ NS vulnerable		♣ 5	
	♠ 43		♠ A2
	♥ J6		♥ K85
	♦ KQJ42		♦ 10863
	♣ Q932		♣ KJ74
		♠ KQ96	
		♥ AQ3	
		♦ A5	
		♣ A1086	
West	North	East	South
Willard	Sun	Cronier	H Wang
			1♣(precision, 16+)
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	3♦(majors)	5♦	Double
Liu	D'Ovidio	W Wang	Gaviard
			1♣
1♦	Pass	2NT	

This was the fifth of six sessions. France was ahead by over 20 IMPs. In the first room 3♦ was Michaels for majors. It was an effective convention and a brave bid. The bids of 2♦ and 3♣ by West, announcing her two queens, alerted North of prospects in the majors. Before South responded the likely Four Spades, East applied pressure by bidding 5♦. South guessed right by doubling. North led her singleton in clubs and received a ruff. Her return of a spade allowed declarer to put up the ace. Declarer drew trumps and conceded four down minus 800. If North returned a heart after the ruff in clubs, the result would be minus 1100.

In the other room the bidding was natural. North needed more courage to compete. It was not clear if they adopted Michaels at this position. The competition by East-West silenced their opponents. 2NT went three down but China gained 12 IMPs. The Precision bidding worked better in this hand. China recovered 53 IMPs in this session. After countless

misses since a bronze in 1991, China defeated France and then USA to become world champions for the first time.

The three-five preempt

2009 Transnational Team final		♠ AKQ9	
Zimmermann v Poland		♥ 6	
W/ Nil		♦ AK873	
		♣ A109	
	♠ 3		♠ 87542
	♥ KQJ952		♥ 10843
	♦ 52		♦ 9
	♣ J843		♣ KQ2
			♠ J106
			♥ A7
			♦ QJ1064
			♣ 765
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Pzczola	Helness	Gawrys
3♥	Double	5♥	Double
Narkiewicz	Balicki	Buras	Zmudzinski
2♦	Double	4♦	Double
4♥	6♦		

In the Bermuda Bowl final both Italy and USA bid the slam in diamonds. North-South in the second room also bid the slam in two rounds of bidding. After drawing trumps the fourth spade pitched a club loser for an easy twelve tricks. In the first room East-West bid a simple Three Hearts - Five Hearts. It was fashionable to preempt at the Three-level with a good six-card suit, and to raise to the Five-level with a moderately weak hand. A double of Five Hearts sounded like penalties. A double of Four Diamonds in the second room sounded like take-out.

Five Hearts went two down minus 300. The slam gained 12 IMPs. The multi-national squad, with Multon, won the final. The Polish North in the first room, needing a relevant king and queen from partner, could try a Five No-trump over Five Hearts. If partner bid Six Clubs he bid Six Diamonds pinpointing a second suit in spades.

In a Hong Kong international event declarer held ♠AKQ9 ♥AKJ1074 ♦AK ♣A. He heard Three Clubs to his left and Six Clubs to his right. Missing the queen of hearts, he bid Seven Hearts one down. If he bid Seven Clubs, the Queen Bid, partner bid Seven

Diamonds and converted his Seven Hearts to an ironclad Seven Spades. Partner had four spades and two hearts. Opponents won the match staying in Six Hearts. The Three-Five or Three-Six preempt denied opponents bidding space. It simulated a weak raise to the Three-level of a suit, denying opponents a cue bid to explore 3NT.

A tilted opening

2008 BBO Internet	♠ 7653	
IMP pairs	♥ K8642	
N/ NS vulnerable	♦ KQ6	
	♣ 3	
	♠ -	♠ AJ1084
	♥ 975	♥ 3
	♦ AJ10432	♦ 5
	♣ KQ85	♣ AJ10742
	♠ KQ92	
	♥ AQJ10	
	♦ 987	
	♣ 96	

West	North	East	South
Expert	Expert	Clement	Expert
	Pass	1 ♠	Double
Pass	3 ♥	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
6 ♣	Double		

The take-out double was not a popular choice. There were risks. I once succeeded with a similar double leading to a difficult to reach 3NT. My four-card suit in that hand was in spades. Here South had good spot cards. North was ignorant of South's shape. He got over excited pushing opponents. West refrained from bidding after the take-out double. He competed vigorously after my voluntary 4♣.

Many champions bid a five-card major before a six-card minor. This hand showed its advantage, otherwise North could bid Four Clubs over One Club - Double - One Diamond, asking South to pick a major. It disturbed West from judging subsequent responses, as I could open One Club with two cards. West detected my heart shortage making the expert Six Clubs Queen Bid. His queen of clubs was the catalyst. It compensated my tilted 1♠ opening, masking the longer clubs.

South showed his expert status by leading a trump, although he missed a heart trick. I played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond with a high trump. I drew another

trump with the king and ruffed another diamond. The good diamonds pitched a loser in hearts. I had eight trump tricks, four diamonds and the ace of spades for an overtrick and 1190. Of sixteen tables we were the only pair to bid a slam.

Norwegian wood

1997 Bermuda Bowl
Norway v Italy
E/ Both vulnerable

♠ K2	
♥ KJ83	
♦ AJ105	
♣ AK7	
♠ Q	♠ J843
♥ A1092	♥ 7654
♦ 864	♦ 972
♣ Q6542	♣ J3
	♠ A109765
	♥ Q
	♦ KQ3
	♣ 1098

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣(waiting, last train)
Pass	4NT(ask)	Pass	5♦(1 key card)
Pass	5♥(ask)	Pass	5♠(no ♠Q)
Pass	6♦		

I had myself a tip. Think of a lower bid in non-competitive situations. 4♣ was an example. After a natural sequence and asking bids, Helness judged that as Helgemo had one ace and denied queen of spades, he ought to have one king and two queens. Helgemo supported diamonds and bid 4♣, showing slam interest. He should hold ♦KQx. Helness steered to the only makable slam in a Moysian fit with a Queen Bid.

East led a heart to the ace. West returned a club to the ace. Declarer ruffed a heart in dummy. He crossed to his king of clubs, played the king of hearts discarding a club in dummy. He led his third club for a ruff in dummy with the queen. After playing the king of diamonds and king of spades, he drew trumps and claimed 1370. Norway won the match, but had to wait till 2007 to become world champions.

Slam with a single ace

2008 BBO Internet
IMP pairs
W/ Nil

	♠ AJ7	
	♥ KQJ109	
	♦ -	
	♣ K6532	
♠ 62		♠ 9
♥ A82		♥ 643
♦ AQ543		♦ J1096
♣ A108		♣ QJ974
	♠ KQ108543	
	♥ 75	
	♦ K872	
	♣ -	

West	North	East	South
Expert	Advanced	Expert	Clement
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
Double			

I preferred cue bids before using Blackwood. My bidding choice in the first round varied from One to Four Spades. My humble 1♠ allowed bidding space. After 4♠ I felt partner should have two first round controls and tried a delicate 5♣. Being an advanced player his raise to 6♣ was understandable. West, holding three aces, could not resist doubling an ironclad 6♠. He did expertly well to lead a trump. Taking in hand I led the nine of hearts. West ducked. I continued with the ten. It did not matter when West took his ace. If East had doubleton hearts and ruffed the third round, the defence had no more trumps and dummy could ruff twice.

I played fast, risking a singleton heart in East. This was unlikely based on the bidding and lead. I should have drawn two rounds of trumps and forced out the ace of hearts. On any return I came to hand and ruffed a diamond with the last trump in dummy. Three good hearts discarded three losing diamonds scoring 980.

The location of the king of diamonds scared many South to explore slam. The exploration required was actually the queens in the majors. After Five Clubs North should know the powerful spades and clubs in North. If he bid Five Diamonds and his partner could not bid Five Hearts he settled for six. His bid of Six Clubs, catering for a club fit and forcing to Six Spades, was arguably world class. My table was the only one to reach a slam.

Jump before you leap

2007 BBO Internet	♠ AKQ762
IMP pairs	♥ A976
S/ Nil	♦ -
	♣ 742
♠ 103	♠ 954
♥ 105	♥ QJ43
♦ AK108765	♦ 32
♣ J3	♣ 10982
	♠ J8
	♥ K84
	♦ QJ94
	♣ AKQ5

West	North	East	South
	Clement		
			1NT
3♦	6♠		

The bidding took ten seconds. After the 1NT-3♦ jump, the strength in the four hands was crystal clear. Clubs were a slight worry. Partner should hold the relevant queens and kings. An immediate leap to Six Spades would receive a diamond lead and advantages in tempo. A third of the field bid a slam.

I ruffed the lead of a diamond and played the king and ace of hearts. I floated a third heart to East. He returned the fourth heart. I ruffed with the jack. A 3-2 break in trumps allowed the slam home. The play took less than a minute, the quickest table. With a trump lead, I drew trumps, ducked a heart, and squeezed East in hearts and clubs.

Raising a doubled small slam

2008 BBO Internet	♠ QJ976
IMP pairs	♥ 54
N/ Nil	♦ Q95
	♣ 932
♠ 105	♠ 8432
♥ 92	♥ 7
♦ J876	♦ 1042
♣ AK854	♣ QJ1076
	♠ AK

♥ AKQJ10863
 ♦ AK3
 ♣ -

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	6♥
Double	7♥	Pass	Pass
Double			

Queens were critical in this hand. Many South opened their hand Six or Seven Hearts, unscientific. The double of Six Hearts revealed important hints. I deduced that West should not have two aces for his double. The opener could be void in one of his aces. He would not double with a lone ace. A good suit with AK was more likely. Even if declarer was singleton in his suit, his partner might have a trick. As I possessed the queens in spades and diamonds, chances were that West held the club suit.

If my partner did have a singleton club and no more losers, he had A or AK bare in spades and diamonds, unlikely. My queens were perfect match for his holes in spades or diamonds. The risk was a doubleton ace in a suit. Rather than a redouble, I ventured Seven Hearts, the Queen Bid. As expected, West reiterated his double. It was unforgettable to bid and make a doubled grand slam having been penalty-doubled in a small slam of the same suit. A redouble was extravagant. We scored the top IMP. Half of the field went to the grand, mostly by opening Seven, and none by the Six hearts - Seven Hearts route. Six Hearts doubled would score negative IMPs.

A grand opening

2008 BBO Internet
 IMP pairs
 S/ Both vulnerable

♠ 10872
 ♥ J875
 ♦ KJ873
 ♣ -

♠ 43
 ♥ K10932
 ♦ 652
 ♣ 432

♠ AKQ96
 ♥ -
 ♦ A
 ♣ AKQJ1096

♠ J5
 ♥ AQ64
 ♦ Q1094
 ♣ 875

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

Pass

7♠

After a bronze in 1991, many silvers and near misses, the China ladies won two world championships in 2009 and 2010. Only Sun and Wang played in both events. They demonstrated a law of total tricks in slams. Eight trumps scored more tricks than nine.

Two Diamonds was game forcing. 5NT stated the diamond void and one key card in spades. Sun deduced that South was 3-5-0-5. If South had KQ of hearts her club losers went away. If South had KQ of clubs her heart losers went away. Wang could also have king of hearts and respectable clubs. Seven Clubs required king of hearts and strong clubs. The prospect of Seven Spades was higher. Sun bid Seven Spades, a Queen Bid. A law of grand slam involved crucial queens. Seven Clubs happened to go down.

Dummy ruffed the lead of a diamond. Sun played the king of spades, ace of hearts, and ruffed a second diamond. She led a club to the ace and drew trumps. The fifth club took care of her heart loser in hand. A trump lead would test declarer. She covered the lead in hand and ruffed a diamond in dummy. Returning to the ace of hearts she ruffed a second diamond with the king of spades. She returned to hand with the ace of clubs to draw trumps and claimed. This required a likely 3-2 spade break gauged from the lead. If a 4-1 spade break seemed likely, declarer needed to risk the ♣10 as a third entry to hand.

CHAPTER 2

Treasuring your queen

This chapter was for declarers. It commenced with hands of unnecessary finesse and mini skirt finesse, to techniques of deploying your queens, to a camouflage duck, and to sham Queen or Jack Sacrifices. In chess, a sham Queen Sacrifice was a tactic to sacrifice your queen to win a game. I categorized these techniques as a Queening play, borrowed from prawn queening in chess. When a prawn reached the opposing baseline, it was transformed into queens. This book deployed the term Queen or Queening throughout, encouraging players to win championships. The status would be reachable if you empowered the technique of Queening, the skillful bidding and play surrounding the queens. As with all hands in this book, the winning play involved decisions surrounding the crucial queens.

Vocabulary

Queen Discovery – locate a queen in opponents.

Queen Sacrifice – sacrifice a queen.

Real Queen Sacrifice – Queen Sacrifice hoping for an advantage.

Sham Queen Sacrifice – Queen Sacrifice preceding a win.

A perfect painting

2005 Portugal Festival

Open team

W/ Nil

	♠ 96	
	♥ AQJ5	
	♦ Q9432	
	♣ J4	
♠ J52		♠ 74
♥ 97		♥ K10864
♦ AK108		♦ 75
♣ A1093		♣ Q862
	♠ AKQ1083	
	♥ 32	
	♦ J6	
	♣ K75	

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠

Players preferred declaring and finessing. The next three hands demonstrated Queening plays. After leading the ace of diamonds West returned the nine of hearts. All twelve declarers automatically put in the jack, thinking that eight tricks were secure. East took with his king and returned smartly a heart to the ace. Declarers knew West would ruff a jack of hearts continuation. He led a club to the king, and West's ace. Defenders led trumps. Eight declarer tricks shrunk to seven for one down minus 50.

East bid hearts. He should hold the king. The North-South shape and honour cards were perfect. Play the ace of hearts, draw trumps, and float the jack of diamonds to the ace. West was endplayed. An exit in a minor suit gave away a trick. West returned a heart to the queen and king. This endplayed East. His return presented declarer with the eighth trick. Like an adored painting, the ♥QJ, ♦QJ, and ♣KJ were all immaculately positioned. Regardless of the location of the king of hearts, refusing the finesse in hearts was a perfect response to a perfect painting.

Gearing an automatic finesse

2007 UK

Lederer Memorial Trophy

N/ Nil

♠ J6
♥ 86
♦ AK8642
♣ AK7

♠ K874	♠ 53
♥ AK10973	♥ Q54
♦ Q3	♦ J1095
♣ 6	♣ 10532
	♠ AQ1092
	♥ J2
	♦ 7
	♣ QJ984

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Peterson	McIntosh	Short
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Double	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠		

This hand featured another automatic finesse. Both rooms played in Four Spades. In the other room West led the ace and king of hearts, and shifted to a club. Declarer took with dummy's ace and passed the jack of spades. He lost one more spade making 420. In this room Hallberg sat West. He once played for Sweden, shifted to UK winning the World Senior Team in 2010. He won the Vanderbilt in 2006. After cashing two top hearts he knew a continuation yielded a ruff and discard. There appeared to be little future in the minor suits. He persisted with a third heart.

Declarer ruffed with the jack in dummy and played a spade to his nine. West played his king and submitted a fourth heart. East ruffed with the five of spades forcing declarer's ten. His magnificent trump spots were reduced to ♠AQ2. He lost a trick to the ♠874 in West. The solution to Hallberg's hook was deceptively simple. West showed his long hearts. East could not promote trumps by leading hearts. Provided trumps broke no worse than 4-2, there was no need for finesses in trumps. Put a gear on the automatic finesse. Play ace and queen of spades, and score 420.

Asymmetry

2007 BBO Internet
 IMP pairs
 E/ Nil

	♠ QJ107	
	♥ QJ975	
	♦ -	
	♣ A732	
♠ 82		♠ K6543
♥ K4		♥ 108
♦ AKQJ9873		♦ 542
♣ K		♣ 1054

♠ A9
 ♥ A632
 ♦ 106
 ♣ QJ986

West	North Clement	East	South Chinese Taipei
		Pass	Pass
3NT	Double	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥

Appropriate finesses decided marginal slams. We were the only pair to reach a slam. I faced two bidding decisions. My double of 3NT risked a pass from partner, although we should beat it three down plus 500. After 4♣ I needed to find our best spot. It was tempting to bid 4♦ or 5♣. My 4♥ aimed to invite further clarifications. This should show both majors. My expert partner, being careful so far, had little hesitation bidding 6♥.

I trumped the lead of a diamond. I then passed the queen of hearts to the king. West led a spade to the queen, king and ace. My jack of hearts drew the outstanding trumps. I went to dummy with the nine of spades and led the queen of clubs, to the king and ace. I led a club and faced my third decision and fourth finesse. Where was the ten of clubs?

I decided to finesse. It was asymmetry. West had ♥K4 and possibly a doubleton in spades. With a doubleton in clubs and solid diamonds, an expert would unlikely open a 3NT bid. I scored 980. The contract would still make if East did not cover my queen of spades. My bidding appeared optimistic, requiring three of four finesses. The foundation of my bids was the likely successful finesses of my queens in the major suits. That would match a normal 3NT opening. It was fortunate that my asymmetric finesses succeeded against an asymmetric 3NT opening.

A mini skirt finesse

2000 USA Fall National
 Ladies pairs
 E/ Nil

♠ KQ8
 ♥ J8764
 ♦ AQ107
 ♣ 8

♠ A
 ♥ KQ9532
 ♦ J54
 ♣ 952

♠ J103
 ♥ A
 ♦ K82
 ♣ AQJ1063

♠ 976542
 ♥ 10

			♦ 963
			♣ K74
West	North	East	South
Quinn		Breed	
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Double	3 ♣	4 ♠
5 ♣			

A finesse of a 5 over a 4 was rare. East-West contributed to many USA wins in world women championships. South led a heart against 5♣. Breed declared as East. She took the lead with her ace, crossed to the ace of spades, and finessed a club to her queen and South's king. North put up her ace when South returned a diamond. If she attacked spades dummy had to trump and declarer had no chance. She led a heart for a possible promotion in trumps.

Breed ruffed with her jack. She led the ♣3 to the ♣5 when South played low. The mini skirt finesse succeeded. She ruffed a heart with the ten of clubs, establishing hearts in dummy. The club nine drew the outstanding trump in South. She cashed the ♥KQ9 in dummy pitching losers in hand, scoring 400.

When declarer played the ♣3, South must rise with the ♣7. The ♣5 remaining in dummy would be smaller than the lowest ♣6 in declarer. With concentration an expert should realize the power of the hearts and the communication problem facing declarer. South saw the two, three, four and five of clubs. The ♣5 could not be an entry if she forced out the nine. While sympathetic to West, give full marks to Breed.

Missing a U-turn

2001 Germany	♠ K1094	
International Festival teams	♥ -	
W/ Both vulnerable	♦ K9863	
	♣ 9874	
	♠ 82	♠ AQ76
	♥ QJ983	♥ AK6
	♦ Q	♦ J1072
	♣ KQ532	♣ J6
	♠ J53	
	♥ 107542	
	♦ A54	
	♣ A10	

West	North	East	South
Aujaleu		Adad	
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ (transfer)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	

Finesses were usually one way. In 4♥ most South led a small spade to the nine and queen. Declarer played a club to the king in dummy and a club to his jack, taken by the ace. South continued with the jack of spades to the ace. Declarer started trumps with the ace and king. He finessed smoothly the ten of hearts in South. When clubs failed to break he had nine tricks for minus 100.

A 5-0 break in trumps was not unexpected. Declarer had already three tricks. An unusual play, resembling a U-turn, was a heart to the queen. Ruff a club with the ace of hearts, ruff a spade in hand, ruff another club with the king of hearts, and ruff the fourth spade. There were eight tricks. Play any side suit. With ♥J9 in hand declarer collected two further tricks for 620.

If defenders followed to the first heart, declarer led a club and ruffed with the ace. He cashed the king of hearts. If trumps broke 3-2 there was no further problem. He returned to hand to draw trumps and enjoyed the established clubs. If trumps broke 4-1, he ruffed a spade and led the good clubs. Declarer had ♥J9 and south had ♥107. The defence scored only one more trump and a diamond.

The clues were the lead of a spade by South and his drop of the ten on the first club, reflecting his shortage in the black suits. Any long trumps in a defender should lie with South. An effective strategy was the establishment of clubs using the top trumps in dummy, while retaining trump length in hand. This required leading clubs from hand. Taking the first trump with the queen was essential when South held five trumps. The natural finesse in trump was misconceived. The Queen Play direction was a U-turn.

Blowing your trumpet

2007 BBO Internet
IMP pairs
N/ EW vulnerable

	♠ 854	
	♥ 7	
	♦ AJ10643	
	♣ Q1085	
♠ KQJ107		♠ A9
♥ 9862		♥ KQ54
♦ 2		♦ KQ7
♣ AJ9		♣ Q1085
	♠ 632	

♥ AJ103
 ♦ 985
 ♣ K76

West	North	East	South
Expert	Expert	Clement	Expert
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	2♦	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Double

Doubling a suit contract with a balanced hand was risky. We missed the better contracts of 3NT or 4♠. South doubled 4♥ announcing his ♥AJ10 four-card in trumps. North took the lead of a small diamond with his ace and returned a diamond. I played the king and queen of diamonds, discarding two clubs in dummy. I crossed to the ace of clubs and led a heart to my king. South took with the ace and returned a spade.

I let this run to my nine and ruffed a club. A spade to my ace allowed another lead of a club. Dummy ruffed and played the king of spades. I ruffed with the four of trumps, the Grand coup. South had ♥J103. On the next lead of my fourth club he ruffed with his jack, otherwise dummy's trump would be the ninth trick, and my ♥Q fulfilled 4♥ for 790. He returned a low heart. I put up the ♥9 at trick 12. ♥Q took the last trick. My unknown partner saw the four hands, and commented that he did not know how to play, let alone to make the contract quickly. He exaggerated. Once a defender blew his horn, declarer assessed his shape and played accordingly. A Grand coup accomplished my mission.

A supernatural finesse

1997 Bermuda Bowl
 Poland v Tunisia
 N/ Both vulnerable

♠ 82
 ♥ K74
 ♦ Q1086
 ♣ Q1097

♠ AQJ53
 ♥ A83
 ♦ AJ542
 ♣ -

♠ 94
 ♥ QJ652
 ♦ K3
 ♣ J653

♠ K1076
 ♥ 109
 ♦ 97
 ♣ AK642

West	North	East	South
Romanski		Kowalski	

	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Double		

This hand featured several intriguing finesses. The normal lead was a club against a popular 4♥ contract. Declarer ruffed. He crossed to the king of diamonds and finessed a spade to the queen. Most declarers played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. South overruffed and led a trump. Dummy took with the ace. The following diagram showed the positions.

		♠ 8	
		♥ K7	
		♦ Q	
		♣ Q109	
♠ AJ53			♠ 9
♥ 8			♥ QJ6
♦ J5			♦ -
♣ -			♣ J65
		♠ K107	
		♥ -	
		♦ -	
		♣ A842	

When Zia of USA declared against France he ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, and played a diamond. North Perron discarded a spade. Declarer discarded a spade (or a club, with the same result). Declarer led the spade ace. North ruffed. Declarer could overruff but had to lose two clubs and the ♥K for one down. When Vernon of France declared he ruffed a diamond and finessed a spade to the jack. He led the fifth diamond. If North ruffed with the ♥K and returned a trump he beat the contract.

Kowalski showed how to make his doubled contract. He ruffed a diamond with the ♥J, the Queening play. He finessed a spade to the jack, and led the fifth diamond. If North declined to ruff, declarer ruffed with the six, ruffed a club, led a spade and scored his ♥Q Coup en passant. North ruffed with the ♥K, and returned a trump. Now declarer let the ♥8 in dummy win and cashed the ace of spades pitching a club. The ♥Q was the tenth trick scoring 790. Declarers missed the significance of the ♥8 in dummy. Only Kowalski found the missing link, a supernatural self-finesse.

A supernatural scissors

Open pairs
E/ Nil

♠ A4	♥ QJ1085	♠ Q6
♥ 9643	♦ A43	♥ A7
♦ 2	♣ AQ8	♦ K8765
♣ J109654		♣ K732
	♠ J1098752	
	♥ K2	
	♦ QJ109	
	♣ -	

West	North	East	South
	Lesniewski		Harasimowicz
		1♦	3♠
Pass	4♠		

We knew Scissors coup. West led a diamond. South Eva Harasimowicz instantly recognized its singleton status. She put up the ace figuring how to prevent East from getting the lead. She had to lose two aces and the king of diamonds. A diamond ruff derailed the contract.

If East held the ♠A, the contract went down. Without the ♠A, East had to hold the ace of hearts and the king of clubs for his opening bid. Declarer needed to discard two hearts to engineer her Scissors. Eva discarded a heart on the ace of clubs and played the eight of clubs.

East ducked in tempo. With the lone queen loitering in dummy it seemed foolish to play his king. Declarer discarded her heart king. West took the naughty eight with his jack and tried a heart. Eva ruffed, played a spade and put up the ♠K according to her analysis. The ♠K held. She played a spade. She lost to the ♠A and a diamond making 4♠. The supernatural Scissors denied East an entry in the ace of hearts. Even if East detected the singleton lead, covering the eight with his king seemed inhuman. Regrettably he did not have another higher club. This was a fine art of using the queens in clubs and spades, an outstanding Queening play with a Queen Discovery of the ♠Q.

The queen sacrifice

2007 Netherlands	♠ 10
Orange v 2006 Rosenblum champions	♥ A8
W/ NS Vulnerable	♦ AKJ54
	♣ J9843

♠ J73		♠ A964
♥ KQ642		♥ J7
♦ 72		♦ Q963
♣ 752		♣ K106
	♠ KQ852	
	♥ 10953	
	♦ 108	
	♣ AQ	

West	North	East	South
Ramondt	Helgemo	Westra	Helness
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT		

Donating your queen voluntarily seemed illogical. In chess a queen sacrifice was a superior strategy to gain advantages scoring spectacular wins. There were many books devoted to the topic. I introduced the tactic in bridge in my 1993 Bols Tip. Helness demonstrated in this hand a new dimension. Helgemo and Helness were world team champions in 2006 and 2007. Netherlands invited the 2006 squad for a friendly match.

The hand was switched 180 degrees to facilitate reading. Helness received the lead of a heart in 3NT. He ducked to the jack and took the continuation with the ace. He led to the king of spades and surrendered the club queen, a Queen Sacrifice. Westra sat East and ducked the Greek gift. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs, crossed to dummy with the ace of diamonds and played a third club to the king. The position was as follows.

	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ KJ54	
	♣ J9	
♠ J7		♠ A96
♥ KQ6		♥ -
♦ 7		♦ Q96
♣ -		♣ -
	♠ Q85	
	♥ 109	
	♦ 10	
	♣ -	

East was on lead. He had to give declarer an additional spade or diamond trick. With four clubs, the ace of hearts, the king of spades, and the ace and king of diamonds, declarer scored 600. If East took the club queen with his king and returned a club (best) to declarer's ace, declarer ducked a diamond, scoring three diamonds and four clubs.

If West held the king of clubs the contract always went down. The queen sacrifice helped discovering the breaks in clubs. If declarer passed the ten of diamonds an alert East would duck. There would be inadequate entries to enjoy the entangled clubs. In chess the donated queen was a sham sacrifice, pinpointing that East should not take the queen. Nevertheless, Helness accomplished his mission.

A Trojan horse

2004 Australia
W/ EW vulnerable

	♠ AKJ6	
	♥ AKQ542	
	♦ -	
	♣ AQ10	
♠ Q752		♠ 103
♥ 9		♥ J108
♦ AK975		♦ QJ102
♣ K75		♣ 9862
	♠ 984	
	♥ 763	
	♦ 8643	
	♣ J43	

West	North	East	South
1♦	Double	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥		

Donating a queen might not always work. South bid 2♥ voluntarily with three tiny cards. He landed in an ambitious slam. West led the king of diamonds. Dummy ruffed. Two rounds of trumps revealed a 3-1 break. The finesse in spades might be on, but it required an even break, or a doubleton Q10 with West. The jack of clubs as an entry seemed unappealing. Defenders would duck your volunteered queen of clubs, waiting for the right time to score their king. The chance of avoiding a loser in spades was slim.

West opened. The finesse in clubs should succeed. Declarer hit upon the charm of a donated jack of spades. If swallowed, declarer won the return, drew the remaining trump, and cashed the ♠A. When the ♠10 appeared, the ♠9 solicited an entry to finesse the clubs. Declarer tried the ♠J. West ducked the Trojan horse. Declarer shifted to an alternative. He did not draw trumps, but played the ♠A and ♠K. East ruffed the king. Declarer won the return in dummy, ruffed a spade, and led the jack of club through West making the slam for 980. If East ruffed the fourth round of spades, declarer won the return and led a trump to his six to perform the finesse in clubs. The ♠J was a sham Jack

Sacrifice, similar to the ♣Q played by Helness in the last hand. Take the Trojan horse or leave it, the opponents had to surrender.

Helen of Troy

2003 NEC Cup final
UK/ Argentina v Poland
E/ NS vulnerable

♠ K98
♥ 9876
♦ J1093
♣ K5

♠ Q7654
♥ 5
♦ AK876
♣ 108

♠ AJ3
♥ A2
♦ 542
♣ AJ432

♠ 102
♥ KQJ1043
♦ Q
♣ Q976

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Lesniewski	Callagan	Martens
		1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	
Kwiecien	Senior	Pszczola	Lambardi
		1♣	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠			

Troy was the subject of infinite writings and operas. Its idiomatic message echoed in this hand. In both rooms the lead was a heart. Taking the ace in hand, declarers advanced a diamond to the queen and ace. They finessed a spade successfully to the jack and led a second diamond. South discarded a heart as the king won. The contract would succeed if South held three trumps. Hopefully declarers gave up a third diamond to the jack. The fourth diamond from North promoted a second trump trick for the defence. Declarers scored minus 50 in both rooms. Poland squandered more than 40 IMPs in the last session, losing by an IMP.

Learning from the legend of Troy helped. Duck the diamond queen. Declarer took the next trick and ruffed a heart. He finessed a spade to the jack, cashed the ace of spades, played the ace and king of diamonds, and ruffed a third diamond with East's third spade

for 420. I termed the duck a Queening play, an analogy of prawn queening in chess. The play escaped two finalists. The queen of diamonds was a Helen of Troy. Let her stay where she belonged.

Unreachable sky

2008 USA Fall National			♠ 54	
Side game			♥ K103	
E/ Nil			♦ J10972	
			♣ 763	
		♠ A82		♠ Q1093
		♥ J972		♥ A64
		♦ K853		♦ 64
		♣ J4		♣ 10982
			♠ KJ76	
			♥ Q85	
			♦ AQ	
			♣ AKQ5	
West	North	East	South	
Kantar	R Lee	Alder	L Lee	
Pass	3NT	Pass	1NT	

We continued with the queen sacrifice. West led a small heart against 3NT. East took with his ace and attacked spades with the nine, promising zero or two honours. West took declarer's jack with the ace and returned the eight. Declarer ducked and took the continuation of a spade with her king.

Declarer unblocked diamonds playing the ace and queen. When West ducked she led a heart up. Kantar sat West. He inserted the jack forcing the king. Had West played small, declarer inserted the ten. She would then have two entries in dummy to force out the king of diamonds and to enjoy the diamonds. As it was declarer had eight tricks for minus 50. Declarer should have donated her queen on the ace of hearts at trick one.

There was an elegant solution after the failure to unblock the fatal queen. Before playing a heart up declarer cashed her ♣AKQ. West inserted his jack of hearts as before. After taking the jack with the king, declarer led the jack of diamonds dispatching the queen of hearts. West was endplayed having only hearts and diamonds left. The unreachable dummy was now reachable.

There was an elegant counter. When declarer ducked the eight of spades at the third trick, West returned a heart, taking out a premature entry from dummy. Alternatively, East

played back a heart at trick two, or refused to win the ace of hearts at trick one. This alternative might be double dummy as declarer could have three diamonds or weaker spades.

An American duck

1997 Bermuda Bowl
USA v Norway
E/ Nil

♠ 104	♥ Q3	♦ 5	♣ AJ1097654	♠ K753	♥ K8	♦ KJ974	♣ 32	♠ A98	♥ J10652	♦ A102	♣ K8
				♠ QJ62	♥ A974	♦ Q863	♣ Q				

West North East South
Meckstroth Helness Rodwell Helgemo
[East opened and north-south competed. West declared 5♣]

USA beat Norway, but was overwhelmed by France in the final. The two pairs at this table were well known. The older managed a coup against the younger in this deal. Declarer showed a new dimension of the Queening play.

There was no report on the exact bidding. West showed a long suit in clubs. North-South showed strength in spades and diamonds. North led a diamond. Meckstroth declared and ducked in dummy. South won with his queen, and innately continued a diamond to the ace. Declarer discarded a heart. A heart was led towards the lonely queen. North won with his king and attacked spades. Rising with the ace declarer advanced the jack of hearts. South covered and declarer ruffed. The ace and king of clubs took care of the defensive trumps. The ten of hearts discarded a losing spade making 400.

If south rose with the ace on the first round of hearts, declarer guessed and ruffed the second heart dropping the king. Declarer was not tested. The real test was the first trick. Seeing the vulnerability of his spades when hearts were led, declarer found a way to avoid a loser in spades by manufacturing a defensive slip. It was a far-sighted use of your concealed queen. While South should recognize the futility of continuing diamonds, the American duck of a sham Ace Sacrifice was too delicious for the younger.

Queen camouflage 1993

1993 Hong Kong
Chinese Club open pairs
S/ Nil

♠ KJ9 ♥ 1082 ♦ K104 ♣ AJ82	♠ Q3 ♥ A75 ♦ Q97 ♣ KQ643 ♠ 108652 ♥ Q9 ♦ AJ32 ♣ 105 ♠ A74 ♥ KJ643 ♦ 865 ♣ 97
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West	North	East	South
Clement			
1♣(2+)	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT			Pass

The best of Hong Kong competed for a prestigious trophy. Scoring was match points. We missed a par contract of Two Spades. Thinking I was short in clubs North led a small club to my jack. If I worked on diamonds or spades I needed the Queen Discovery in these two suits. Communications to dummy were problematic. Even if I guessed the queens, it was near certain that defenders would switch to hearts. I felt that we were not in a rosy contract. I remembered my Bols Tip just published. I tried a variation, and with little hesitation, a heart to dummy's queen, a Helen of Troy.

South won with his king and returned a club. I played small and North won with the queen. Counting my high-card points in hearts, North thought it a good idea to venture the queen of spades. I won with my king and played the nine, and played a third round forcing out the ace. North discarded a heart fatally. I scored 150 for a top. While there was an element of luck in my camouflage, the spot cards in my hearts were important basis inspiring my Queening play. South thought I had ♥A10 four-card. North thought I had ♥J10 or J8 four-card. Neither would like to open a second round of hearts. In chess, the queen of hearts was a real Queen Sacrifice. When opponents failed to cope, it was transformed into a sham Queen Sacrifice.

I once made 6NT missing the top diamonds. At the third trick I led a diamond towards my concealed QJ10 five-card. I played the queen and my left hand opponent ducked. He held the ace and thought I was testing a long suit headed by KQ10. My right hand opponent held the king. The queen was the twelve trick.

Queen camouflage 2001

2001 Bermuda Bowl	♠ 92	
Italy v France	♥ A532	
S/ Both vulnerable	♦ J10	
	♣ J9853	
	♠ 1086	♠ AK54
	♥ 1086	♥ Q7
	♦ Q642	♦ A973
	♣ A62	♣ KQ7
	♠ QJ73	
	♥ KJ94	
	♦ K85	
	♣ 104	

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Multon	Bocchi	Quantin
			Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣(strong)	Pass
2♥(2 controls)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT			

In 1993 I played 1NT and led a heart to dummy's queen having ♥1082 in my hand and ♥Q9 in dummy. Defenders never played that suit again. This hand occurred in 2001. 3NT failed at all other tables. The defenders always found their winning hearts. South led a low spade. Declarer Bocchi guessed to put up the ten, which held. If declarer guessed the diamonds, he scored three tricks fulfilling the contract. The caveat was that he had to yield a diamond trick to a defender in between. The obvious shift to hearts signified a defeat. It did not require Smith or similar attitude signals.

Bocchi must have studied psychology. He attacked his weakest suit and led a small heart to his queen and the king. South continued with the queen of spades the king. Bocchi led a diamond, guessing correctly by inserting the queen in dummy. The ace of diamonds and a diamond came next. Collecting his king, South insisted with the jack of spades. Declarer scored 600.

A play identical to mine succeeded in a world championship. The spot cards of the hearts were similar to my hand. Bocchi had the doubleton of Q7 concealed, opposing 1086 in dummy. In my case the doubleton of Q9 was in dummy. It was certainly a rare ecstasy. It took eight years for me to see a similar play reported, and none afterwards.

Queen camouflage 2010

2010 Australia
Rubber bridge
N/ Nil

	♠ 103	
	♥ 64	
	♦ AQ10875	
	♣ 532	
♠ A98652		♠ J7
♥ J107		♥ AK853
♦ 3		♦ K64
♣ Q76		♣ J104
	♠ KQ4	
	♥ Q92	
	♦ J92	
	♣ AK98	

It took nine years for me to read another real Queen Sacrifice in declarer play. North opened 3♦ and Courtney responded 3NT. On the lead of the six of spades he guessed to put up dummy's ten to the jack and king. He passed the jack of diamonds to the king. Before returning a spade East tried the king of hearts, requesting partner to drop his highest card. Seeing partner's jack and declarer's two, he continued with the ace. Courtney dropped the ♥Q and West the ten. West thought that East had AK9 six-card in hearts, and East thought West held J1097. Their spirits were high, smelling jasmine.

East continued a small heart to the magical nine in his partner, and waited patiently for more heart winners. The nine surfaced, but it was with Courtney. He made just nine tricks. Courtney and the reporting journalist were awarded the 2010 best declarer play by the International Bridge Press Association. Had Courtney guessed the spade and heart positions on the first trick, he needed not sacrifice his ♥Q, and would deprive himself of an unforgettable bridge ecstasy.

CHAPTER 3

A golden opening

The response to an opening lead was as important as the lead. An often-ignored area was exit cards in mid-defence. This chapter discussed these subjects with hands featuring queens. Examples were leading the queen with three cards or with ace queen bare of a suit, ducking an opening lead holding a suit with touching honours of KQ or QJ, blocking fourth best leads, doubleton honour trump leads, and a singleton lead that gave the show away.

Vocabulary

Queen Duck – play a small card holding AQ, KQ or QJ of a suit.

Queen Lead – lead a queen unnaturally holding AQ, Q three-card, or similar.

Queen Underlead – lead small unnaturally holding AQ, KQ or QJ of a suit.

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Queening your lead

1997 USA Cavendish pairs E/ EW vulnerable	♠ 53 ♥ 9876 ♦ AJ964 ♣ 102	♠ A1084 ♥ A2 ♦ 3 ♣ A76543
	♠ J2 ♥ KQ53 ♦ K752 ♣ KJ9	
	♠ KQ976 ♥ J104 ♦ Q108 ♣ Q8	

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Ekeblad	Helness	Sukoneck
		1 ♣	1 ♠
Double	Pass(no top ♠)	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT			

We began with an unconventional lead. The occasion was a tournament with cash prizes. Its distinct feature was a cash pool for players and a larger cash pool for bidders. Players bid for the winning pairs in an auction. You could lose heavily in the tournament but rewarded yourself predicting the winners, and vice versa.

Sukoneck was South. By his pass of One Spade doubled, North showed no top spade or support. The bidding suggested a red-suit lead, but West showed a heart suit and stoppers in diamonds. The shaky clubs in South were ripe for reaping by declarer. Defenders needed to take five tricks before declarer took nine. South made the Queen Lead of a diamond. He was on target scoring 100. This was an old tactic described in the 1993 Bols Tip. A partnership should however be aware that the lead of the queen of diamonds did not promise a doubleton or the jack.

Queen identity

2008 USA Reisinger board a match teams W/ NS vulnerable	♠ AK432 ♥ 109 ♦ 982 ♣ A64
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♠ 10875	♠ Q96
♥ KQ7	♥ J82
♦ A64	♦ KJ7
♣ 973	♣ K1085
	♠ J
	♥ A6543
	♦ Q1053
	♣ QJ2

West	North	East	South
Weinstein		Garner	
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1NT

In different partnerships queens have different meanings. In the other room South declared the same 1NT contract. West led the queen of hearts. East encouraged. Declarer ducked twice and took the third round. The queen of clubs lost to the king. Declarer had two spades, three hearts and two clubs. He scored 120 after a mixed up in defence.

In this room 1NT was semi-forcing. Opener passed with a minimum and a flat hand. Weinstein as West made the same lead. The ten and nine in dummy alerted Garner that the ♥Q should be from ♥KQx. With four-card West led a small one. With strength West led the king asking East to unblock his highest card. Garner therefore discouraged. West switched to a spade, dummy ducked to the queen. East returned the five of clubs to the queen. Declarer floated a small heart. Other alternatives did not fare better.

West put up his king and returned a club to the king. East continued clubs to knock out the ace. Declarer tried a diamond. East put up his king to cash the fourth club. East exited a heart. Declarer could take his three heart tricks, but had to lead diamonds losing the last two tricks for minus 200. Declarer could not fare better by cashing the ace and king of spades in dummy. He had to discard a winner in hearts and a diamond, arriving at the same result. Once East respected the ♥Q identity, declarer had no suitable encounter.

Trapping a king

2003 USA
Open team trials
N/ Both vulnerable

	♠ K87	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AQ963	
	♣ K632	
♠ J3		♠ A106
♥ 1032		♥ J9876
♦ K104		♦ 52
♣ AQ985		♣ J104

♠ Q9542
 ♥ AKQ4
 ♦ J87
 ♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Compton	Weichsel		Sontag
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦(game force)
Pass	3♠(short♥ +3♠)	Pass	4♠

We observed two remarkable Queen Leads. Compton as West knew dummy was 3-1-5-4. His ♦K10 and ♣AQ awaited an uncertain destiny. A lead from a major suit was not promising. He fancied the queen of clubs as the lead, preserving his good clubs while hoping to trap a king.

Declarer, a world champion, thought it blameless to duck in dummy. Dummy ducked the second club. Declarer ruffed in hand. He led to the king of spades, taken by East with the ace. East returned the jack of clubs. Declarer discarded a diamond, expecting West to ruff from three trumps, thereby wasting a natural winner. The appearance of the ♣A was uncompromising. The subsequent loss of a trump sunk an impregnable contract. Due to the fortunate positions in the diamonds and clubs, declarer should lose two spades and one club. Compton reversed the fortune. It was not a lucky lead, but a Queening lead.

Desperado

2004 USA
 Grand National teams
 S/ Nil

♠ 73
 ♥ 104
 ♦ K10753
 ♣ K862
 ♠ J1052
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ J82
 ♣ QJ94
 ♠ K84
 ♥ KJ9874
 ♦ AQ6
 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
			Shenkin
			1♥

1♠ Double 3♠ 4♥

Being endplayed early was not amusing. The Double by North showed minors. Declaring 4♥, Shenkin decided to win the diamond lead with his queen, cashed his ace of diamonds, and led a club. His Dentist coup to endplay West worked. Winning his ace of clubs, West elected to return a club. The king provided a discard of a spade in hand, and an entry for finessing a trump by passing the ten. West won with the ace and continued a club, ruffed by declarer. The king of hearts dropped the queen for 450. Shenkin won the event with his team.

A Queen Sacrifice was the recipe. A normal count signal by East on the first club should reveal declarer's singleton. A return of a club yielded a trick and an entry to dummy. Adopting the concept of Queen Lead, West played the queen of spades. It was not desperado. East supported spades and might hold a princely jack. The Queen Lead lost to the king of spades, but declarer had no suitable return. He tried a spade. East won with his jack and returned a diamond for one down plus 50.

An impossible dream

1999 USA
Cavendish pairs
E/ NS vulnerable

♠ 7654 ♥ Q872 ♦ J ♣ J973	♠ K109 ♥ A653 ♦ K752 ♣ K2	♠ AQ3 ♥ 9 ♦ 84 ♣ AQ108654
♠ J82 ♥ KJ104 ♦ AQ10963 ♣ -	♠ - ♥ - ♦ - ♣ -	♠ - ♥ - ♦ - ♣ -

West	North	East	South
Weichsel	Moss	Sontag	Gitelman
4♣	5♦	2♣	2♦

A crucial queen determined this hand. Both pairs were world champions. North-South won the Rosenblum Cup in 2010. Many pairs made 3NT or 4♥. The competitive bidding ended in 5♦.

West led a heart which ran to the ten in declarer. Gitelman drew trumps and ruffed a small club. He cashed the ace of hearts, noting the discard from East. He played the king

of clubs pitching a spade. East took his ♣A. Endplayed, he played ace of spades and a spade, hoping partner held the jack. This was an impossible dream. Declarer took the spade with his jack. The king of spades in dummy parked a losing heart. Should East return a club declarer discarded another spade as dummy ruffed. Declarer endplayed East in with a spade. A spade gave away a trick. A club yielded another ruff and discard.

Advising East to return the deuce of spade after his ♣A invited ridicules and scorns, but this was the only winning return. Declarer had to lose a heart and a spade in addition to the club. The intact ♠AQ in East guarded the ♠K10 in dummy and the ♠J in declarer. The spade deuce gave away a trick. The other options gave away two. Giving more thoughts, the deuce was not an impossible dream, but an impossible return turned possible, a Queen Underlead advocated in the Amazing Queen tips.

A possible dream

2000 Netherlands	♠ AJ8643	
National Team semifinal	♥ 8	
N/ NS vulnerable	♦ A54	
	♣ K72	
	♠ 75	♠ KQ2
	♥ KQJ106	♥ 743
	♦ J106	♦ 83
	♣ J103	♣ AQ654
	♠ 109	
	♥ A952	
	♦ KQ972	
	♣ 98	

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Eskes	Verhees	Von Seida
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠(6+ card)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠		

A major tenace was the AQ of a suit. This was another challenge for a defender holding a major tenace. A part-score was played in the other room. In this room Verhees sat East. He led a heart against 4♠, to dummy's ace. A spade was led to his queen. Verhees did an accounting. Declarer had ten tricks with the ace of hearts, four trumps, and five diamonds with the ace. He had three tricks in ♠KQ and ♣A. He needed one more. Verhees discovered a Queen Sacrifice, and led the queen of clubs.

Declarer could cash the ace of spades and ran diamonds. Ruffing the third round, the defence scored two club tricks for one down. Declarer could cross to dummy in diamonds

to repeat the finesse in spades. East won, returned a club to partner's lovely jack, and set the contract with his ace of clubs. If declarer had a 6-2-3-2 or 6-2-2-3 shape, East would still defeat the contract.

The key card was the ♣J. The ten was a surplus. The caveat was that a small club from East would not work if declarer held the ten. Declarer took the jack with his king and played the ten. On winning with his honour East could not lead trumps without losing his king. He needed to let partner win the second club to lead a trump. The Queen Lead from a major tenace performed the magic, once again.

Maximization

2008 NEC Cup
Israel v Canada
N/ Both vulnerable

♠ K6 ♥ A86 ♦ AJ942 ♣ AQ6	♠ AQJ872 ♥ Q ♦ K85 ♣ J32	♠ 543 ♥ J10974 ♦ Q76 ♣ 85
	♠ 109 ♥ K532 ♦ 103 ♣ K10974	

West Barel	North N Gartaganis	East Campanile	South J Gartaganis
	1 ♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 ♠ (6-card)		

A defender mitigated his damages when endplayed. Campanile was one of Israel's best. She sat East and led a club. West took his ace and queen, and led a third club. She ruffed. Endplayed, she assessed declarer's shape. Declarer showed six spades and three clubs. If he had three diamonds, a heart lead would be futile, as declarer should have at least a queen. A diamond yielded a crucial finesse for declarer. A trump might trap an honour held by partner, but it cut down the ruffing potential of dummy and the entry for the clubs. It maximized defence prospects.

Barel complimented Campanile's good return by ducking the nine of spades, otherwise the ten in dummy was an entry to cash the good clubs. Declarer could draw trumps, or led a heart, or led a diamond for his seventh trick. Either way defenders could prevent him

from reaching dummy again to make his contract. While returning a trump presented a free finesse, declarer's joy quickly evaporated.

An honourable king

1998 Generali Masters
Individuals
E/ EW vulnerable

♠ 5432	♠ J6	♠ KQ1087
♥ Q5	♥ AJ1083	♥ K962
♦ J	♦ Q62	♦ K97
♣ 1097532	♣ KJ8	♣ A
	♠ A9	
	♥ 74	
	♦ A108543	
	♣ Q64	

West	North	East	South
Kholmeev	Chemla	Helgemo	Freeman
		1 ♠	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
3 ♠	4 ♦		

The Deschappelles coup was normally a King Sacrifice to create entries for partner. It was the name of a chess and whist player living around the French Revolution. In this popular 4♦ contract most declarers played back a spade after taking the lead with the ace of spades. On a suit return declarer had one entry to play the queen of diamonds through East. Defence and play varied but most declarers scored one down, losing a trick in each suit.

The eventual winner Helgemo sat East. He took the second spade, cashed the ace of clubs, and sailed the honourable king of hearts, Deschappelles. Dummy's ace took the trick. Declarer passed the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. Declarer tried to reach dummy via a club to take the marked finesse of the nine of diamonds. Helgemo spoiled the plan by ruffing. He led a heart to the queen and ruffed the return of another club. The sham King Sacrifice succeeded. Two down was almost a top score. If declarer respected the 3♠ bid by West he might suspect the King Sacrifice. Cashing the ace of clubs facing KJ in dummy aroused suspicion. He should play the ten of trumps conceding one down for a modest score.

A humiliated king

2008 Olympiad Norway v Egypt E/ Both vulnerable	♠ A103 ♥ J109542 ♦ 85 ♣ 109	♠ Q4 ♥ Q876 ♦ AQ10 ♣ KJ75	
	♠ K98752 ♥ A ♦ 943 ♣ A84		
	♠ J6 ♥ K3 ♦ KJ762 ♣ Q632		
West El-Ahmadi	North Helness	East Sadek	South Helgemo
		1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3NT	

Leading the king from a doubleton was not new. When UK played Australia West bid One Heart over One Diamond, a transfer to Spades. North doubled showing hearts. South led the king of hearts against Australia's 3NT. Defenders could establish the hearts defeating the contract. Good card reading might allow 4♠ to make.

Helgemo once led an unsupported king from four-card in mid defence, creating an entry to his partner (not Helness) via the queen. At the diagrammed table Helgemo led the ♥K without the slightest hesitation. It was the only lead to defeat the contract. Declarer won with his ace and played a spade. Helness philosophized. This could be the ninth trick for declarer, five clubs with KQ in hand, AK of diamonds, one heart and one spade. The arithmetic of high-card points would be 14, matching the bids of the declarer.

As North had not shown any preference in hearts, he presumed South to hold the queen. He rose with his ace of spades and returned a heart. Declarer took the rest of the tricks by locating the queen of clubs and a squeeze. The failed ♥K lead became a real King Sacrifice. There were times when misinterpretations humiliated Helgemo's brilliant leads. That did not discourage Helgemo, or Helness.

A foolish lead

2007 Bermuda Bowl final
 Norway v USA
 E/ Nil

♠ 87
 ♥ KJ3
 ♦ Q1063
 ♣ KQ75

♠ KJ6
 ♥ 98652
 ♦ K75
 ♣ A2

♠ 432
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ 92
 ♣ J109843

♠ AQ1095
 ♥ A107
 ♦ AJ84
 ♣ 6

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Garner	Saelensminde	Weinstein
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣(could be strong)
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥(3card)
Pass	3NT		
Zia	Helness	Rosenberg	Helgemo
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble		

A double of 3NT often demanded a lead of dummy's first-bid suit. Brogeland in the first room did not fancy a double. His partner Saelensminde led the queen of hearts, seemingly foolish. A short suit lead was a recommended strategy with a weak hand. Declarer won with his king and passed the ten of diamonds to the king. West continued hearts to the jack. Declarer passed a spade to the queen and king. The third heart exhausted the last heart stopper. Declarer could still make his contract by guessing West to hold Ax in clubs. This was anti-percentage. He cashed two diamonds and finessed a spade to the ten. West won with the jack, cashed two hearts and the ace of clubs for two down minus 100.

The refrain from Double and the lead from a short major were expert decisions. West had four entries to establish his paltry hearts. In the other room Zia counted four defensive tricks. His 1993 Bols Tip of the Panther Double advised defenders to double boldly, sometimes to puzzle declarer. He thought this was an appropriate occasion, securing also a spade lead. Helness had a maximum 1NT and redoubled.

Rosenberg led a spade compliantly. West covered the ten with his jack and played a small club. Helness played his king and advanced the queen of diamonds, ducked by West. Declarer led the ten of diamonds, overtook with dummy's ace, confident that West had

the king. After the ace and queen of spades, West took his king and was endplayed. He could cash his minor suit winners. Declarer had the rest for 800 and 14 IMPs. By out-gunning USA2, Norway was crowned world champion for the first time.

A disturbing lead

2001 USA Fall National			
Spingold knock-out team			♠ KJ643
S/ EW vulnerable			♥ AK93
			♦ Q9
			♣ 74
	♠ Q2		♠ 875
	♥ 10752		♥ 864
	♦ A83		♦ KJ72
	♣ A862		♣ J105
		♠ A109	
		♥ QJ	
		♦ 10654	
		♣ KQ93	
West	North	East	South
Aa	Petrinin	Groetheim	Gromov
			1NT(weak)
Pass	2♥(transfer)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠

From experience I considered the principle of restricted choice flawed. In the 2011 European Open Championship West led a low trump against 7♠ from a doubleton. East played the ♠Q. Declarer played the ♠A. Dummy had ♠K10 five-card. Declarer next finessed a trump to the ♠10, restricted choice. East had doubleton ♠QJ for one down. The restricted choice was based on the probability that East played the jack or queen half of the time if he had two, and all the time if he held a singleton honour. However, West could likewise play in this manner with his small cards, holding two or three cards. Declarer fared better by assessing a 2-2 or 3-1 break.

Gromov declared 4♠ as South. He took the lead of a small trump with the nine. Unsure of its status, he led a diamond to the nine and jack. East returned a club, covered by the king and ace. West cashed his ace of diamonds and led a diamond, ruffed in dummy. South thought that as West had two aces in the minors and hearts had been bid, it was reasonable for Aa to lead a singleton or doubleton in spades.

Judging that West did not hold the queen and guarding against four trumps in East, declarer played a spade to his ten. The queen defeated the contract. Leading small with a

doubleton or a doubleton queen was an old ploy. It defeated Four Spades at this table, and Seven Spades in 2011.

An impossible singleton

2000 Olympiad final
Italy v Poland
W/ EW vulnerable

♠ Q863 ♥ J2 ♦ 643 ♣ 8752	♠ A2 ♥ AK96 ♦ Q952 ♣ KJ6	♠ KJ105 ♥ Q3 ♦ A1087 ♣ A93
	♠ 974 ♥ 108754 ♦ KJ ♣ Q104	

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Lauria	Tuszynski	Versace
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2NT(accept)	Pass	3♦(transfer)
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥		

We continued with the lead of a trump. In the other room Poland's Balicki as North bid 1NT and Zmudzinski passed. After a diamond lead declarer scored nine tricks.

In this room Italy deployed transfer bids. 2NT was marionette, responder was permitted to show support or denial. Against 4♥, East had some difficulties finding an attractive opening lead presented a problem for East. Tuszynski tried a small trump from his doubleton queen, the only lead to disturb declarer. Lauria took West's jack with his ace. He played a diamond to the king and led a heart to his king dropping the queen, making the contract. It was less difficult for declarer to solve the puzzle with four missing trumps. An expert East, having viewed the bidding, would unlikely choose a singleton trump as his lead. There were also slim prospects of pitching two spade losers from dummy on the diamonds. Italy won the final.

A dauntless assumption

2002 McConnell cup
N/ EW vulnerable

	♠ KQ8743	
	♥ 963	
	♦ Q6	
	♣ 93	
♠ J92		♠ 1065
♥ J7		♥ AK5
♦ AJ842		♦ 7
♣ 864		♣ AKQJ105
	♠ A	
	♥ Q10842	
	♦ K10953	
	♣ 72	

West	North	East	South
	2♠	3♠(ask 3NT)	Pass
5♣			

The conventional lead with KQ six-card was the king against a suit contract. West knew her jack did not serve as a spade stopper. She knew East must have a solid club suit. An aggressive 5♣ placed the opening lead to North who chose a club. Declarer played ace and king of clubs, ace of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond noting the queen from North. As South appeared to hold a singleton spade and also the missing red-suit honours, declarer played cleverly a small spade. South was endplayed. A heart allowed the jack to win and a losing spade pitched on the top hearts. A diamond allowed the jack to win for a discard of a spade in dummy. West lost only two spades making her contract.

A random heart lead set the contract. A dauntless lead was a small spade. South won her ace and made a safe return. There was no endplay. The Queen Underlead of a small spade by North was reasonable after opponents denied a stopper. It unblocked the singleton ace of spades.

A duck in the mirror

2009 Netherlands
White House mixed teams
S/ EW vulnerable

	♠ 108752	
	♥ AK9	
	♦ AJ7	
	♣ 83	
♠ A9		♠ K43
♥ J8		♥ Q7532
♦ KQ854		♦ 93
♣ Q1072		♣ 954

♠ QJ6
 ♥ 1064
 ♦ 1062
 ♣ AKJ6

West	North	East	South
Gromoeller	Zmudzinski		Seamon-Molson
			Pass
1♦	Double	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT		

This involved a defence suit headed by KQ. 4♠ in the other room stood no chance. After the lead of a diamond, declarer suffered a diamond ruff, losing two spades, one heart and one diamond for two down. In this room Zmudzinski treated his two majors equal with a take-out double. This led to a 3NT contract declared by him. East led the nine of diamonds to the queen. Declarer ducked, and took the diamond continuation with his jack, the Bath coup. Declarer advanced a spade towards dummy. Even if East put up her king she had no diamond to return. Declarer took three spades and two tricks each in the other suits making 3NT.

It was straightforward if West was on led. He would lead a small card. The defence was a duck in the mirror. Duck the diamond lead. On the first spade East put up her king to deliver her remaining diamond. West forced out the ace. His ace of spades was an entry for three tricks in diamonds. West could judge from the doubleton lead that declarer held AJ three-card. His ♦KQ should await a second round to knock out the ace. The mirrored duck was defined as a Queen Duck in this book. It defeated a Bath coup.

A vulnerable duck

2002 USA
 Open trials final
 S/ Nil

	♠ 76	
	♥ A973	
	♦ A109872	
	♣ J	
♠ Q98532		♠ KJ
♥ 108		♥ K64
♦ 3		♦ QJ54
♣ AQ109		♣ 8654
	♠ A104	
	♥ QJ52	
	♦ K6	
	♣ K732	

West Rodwell	North Rosenberg	East Meckstroth	South Zia
			1♣
1♠	Double	Redouble	2♥
2♠	4♥		
Schwartz	Nickell	Becker	Freeman
			1♣
2♠	Double	3♠	4♥

The subject was a suit headed by QJ. In the second room, West led a diamond to the jack and king. Declarer led a heart to the ace and a heart to his queen, East ducked. Declarer crossed to the ace of diamonds and passed the ten of diamonds for a ruffing finesse. After ruffing East's diamond queen he played a trump. Dummy still had a trump to enjoy the diamonds. Declarer lost one trick each of spade, heart and club to make his contract. East could take his king on the second trump and attacked clubs. If West took his ♣Q and ♣A dummy discarded a spade. If west took his ♣Q and returned a small club declarer guessed to run to his ♣K. Alternatively declarer unblocked his ♥Q on the second trump. Declarer always succeeded on the lie of the cards, by establishing diamonds.

Meckstroth in the first room articulated a Queening defence, the Queen Duck. On the lead of a diamond he nonchalantly ducked and declarer won with the tiny six. To establish diamonds declarer had little choice but to play the king next, ruffed by West. West returned a spade to the ace. Declarer had to lose a spade, a heart and a club for one down. To avoid the ruff declarer could draw two rounds of trumps as in the second room. The blockage by his king of diamonds and the lack of entries in dummy prevented the establishment of diamonds. Meckstroth's diamonds were familiar faces vulnerable to be washed out by a ruffing finesse. He expected partner to have winners for his vulnerable overcalls, and the diamonds were main sources of tricks for declarer. The American duck conserved his vulnerable suit, and cost declarer his contract.

A righteous lead

2006 NEC Cup
Italy v Japan
S/ NS vulnerable

	♠ 72	
	♥ 108654	
	♦ J	
	♣ A6532	
♠ 10963		♠ AQ85
♥ KQ2		♥ J3
♦ A10762		♦ K954
♣ 8		♣ KJ10

			♠ KJ4
			♥ A97
			♦ Q83
			♣ Q974
West	North	East	South
Shimizu	Madala	Nakamura	Ferraro
			1 ♣
1 ♦	Double	1 ♥(♠)	Pass
2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠	
Duboin	Furuta	Bocchi	Chen
			1 ♣
1 ♦	3 ♣	3NT	

Leading fourth best was a human right. In the first room East-West found its fit to play 4♠. The fashionable transfer ironically placed North on lead. North happened to possess a singleton diamond. Declarer responded intelligently by taking the lead and played ace and queen of trumps. His operation succeeded in preventing a ruff in diamonds, but the positions in spades and two defensive aces doomed the contract.

In the other room Furuta's preemptive Three Clubs influenced Bocchi to declare 3NT. Playing fourth best lead, Japan's Chen led the four of clubs. North won with the ace and returned a club to the jack and queen. South played the nine of clubs to the king. Declarer played the king of diamonds and a small diamond to the ten, and led hearts forcing out the ace. South now discovered that the seven blocked the clubs, and might apologize for not having shed it on the lead, an old bridge tip for leading the third highest when it was the seven or eight. An expert should recognize an unblocking third best lead, a deviation from the fourth best, when examining his spot cards. By a smile of fortune, an adventurous 3NT scored a swing against a cultured 4♠.

Clashing your own aces

2001 Poland		♠ 73	
N/ EW vulnerable		♥ J103	
		♦ KJ109732	
		♣ 6	
	♠ AQ10985		♠ KJ
	♥ -		♥ AK7652
	♦ A4		♦ Q6
	♣ AQ432		♣ 875
		♠ 642	

♥ Q984
 ♦ 85
 ♣ KJ109

West	North	East	South
Lokeberg			
	3♦	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥*	Pass
6♠			

* No minor suit king

Singleton leads against slams were seduction. Singleton leads of trumps against slams were taboos. In this aggressive 6♠ contract declarer had eleven tricks after the impressive lead of a singleton club. Declarer won the lead with his queen. He knew that North would ruff a second club. Winning tricks by ruffing clubs in dummy was not feasible. An establishment in hearts required meticulous planning. Lokeberg led a spade to the jack. He crashed his ace of diamonds on the ace of hearts, an Ace Sacrifice and a stroke of genius. It was an Emperor's coup named by Le Dentu.

Declarer ruffed a heart in hand, played a spade to dummy's king, and ruffed another heart. He drew trumps, cashed the ace of clubs, and played a diamond. North won with his king. With only diamonds left, he reluctantly surrendered a diamond to the queen in dummy. The hearts provided two further tricks. He scored six spades, three hearts, one diamond and two clubs for 1430.

The asking bid of 5NT pinpointed that declarer held all the aces, and was looking for a king in the minors for a grand slam. A club lead was risky presenting a possible finesse through partner. Declarer could succeed with a lead in the majors. He adopted a similar line but had to gauge North's shape. The otiose singleton lead gave the show away.

CHAPTER 4

A ruffing master plan

Ruffing and forcing were effective techniques producing defensive winners. Hands in this chapter reminded defenders to time their ruffs and their forcing defence. You sat safely with KJ three-card behind AQ10, but the only defence was to give partner a ruff. Two world champions missed the defence. There was a hand where Q10 three-trump was worse than three-small, allowing declarer to land a shadowy contract. Cooperative defence relied on accurate signaling. The chapter ended with hands where world champions failed to recognize their intriguing signals. As usual, focus on the queens.

The detective

2007 USA
Betty Kaplan teams
W/ Both vulnerable

♠ KQ ♥ 1085 ♦ A875 ♣ J1054	♠ A10853 ♥ 76 ♦ QJ104 ♣ 86 ♠ 74 ♥ A9432 ♦ 3 ♣ AKQ72
♠ J962 ♥ KQJ ♦ K962 ♣ 93	

West Hand	North	East Greenberg	South Fout
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥		

Detecting a concealed singleton was fun. Hand sat West and led the king of spades against 2♥. Declarer won with dummy's ace and ducked a heart to the jack. East returned a spade to the queen. West studied the clues surrounding the queens.

The first hint was a duck of the jack of hearts. It implied a queen and good trump holding of partner, and possibly two tricks. The second hint was the idling of the club suit bid by

declarer. There was no impending ruffs or establishment, reflecting solid clubs. Hand deduced that declarer had a 2-5-1-5 shape. This led to the third hint based on the weakness shown in the bidding. The diamond singleton would not be the king.

Hand underled his diamond. East won his king. An impeccable jack of spades followed. Hand scored a trump trick overruffing the nine with his ten. East had one more trump trick. The detective's fourth club set the impregnable contract.

Lumberjack

2006 Rosenblum Cup
N/ EW vulnerable

	♠ 986532	
	♥ A7	
	♦ J632	
	♣ K	
♠ AQ74		♠ KJ10
♥ 982		♥ KJ653
♦ A5		♦ Q4
♣ 9864		♣ AQ7
	♠ -	
	♥ Q104	
	♦ K10987	
	♣ J10532	

West	North	East	South
McIntosh	Upmath	Bakhshi	Torngvist
	Pass	1NT	2NT
Double	4♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double		

It was joy to set a doubled contract with ruffs. South hit upon a splendid club lead, his partner's singleton, in Four Hearts doubled. He chose the ten to signal a void in spades, to the king and declarer's ace. Surveying the scene Bakhshi advanced the jack of hearts. South could not resist taking with his queen and returned a club for a likely ruff. Fortunately and unfortunately North trumped, but it was the ace. South compounded the misfortune when he ruffed the compliant return of a spade, at the expense of his natural trump trick. That was the third and last trick for the defence.

Lumberjack was the luck symbol of many USA universities. To change destiny, South should resist the 'lumberjack'. Based on the play and the penalty double, partner should have a trump higher than the jack. After taking the jack North gave south a ruff in spades. South returned a club for North to ruff. A further spade allowed South to ruff with his queen. Three crossruffs and the ace of hearts sunk the contract. As usual or ironical, if South's three hearts were mini he would defeat the hand effortlessly.

An unnecessary surplus

2001 Bermuda Bowl USA1 v Italy S/ EW vulnerable		♠ A9832 ♥ A ♦ 1064 ♣ AQ97 ♠ K54 ♥ Q10987 ♦ KJ3 ♣ K5 ♠ QJ ♥ J7 ♦ AQ8752 ♣ 1043
		♠ 1076 ♥ K6532 ♦ 9 ♣ J862

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway
			Pass
1♥	1♠	3♦ (weak♥ raise)	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4♠
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
			Pass
1♥	1♠	3♦ (weak♥ raise)	Double
3♥	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠

We declined to ruff our winners. This deal featured a clash of the giants. Italy eliminated USA1, but lost to Norway. Norway squandered a 79 IMPs lead at the half, and succumbed to USA2 in the final.

Both East led his diamond, a sonorous singleton. Both declarers played low in dummy. Meckstroth and Duboin as West won with the jack and returned a heart to the ace. Declarers led a spade to dummy's jack. USA's West won with his king and returned a club. Declarer finessed his queen. Italy's West also won with his king. He returned his king of clubs to the ace. After leading a spade to the queen in dummy, declarers ruffed a heart, drew the remaining trumps with his ace, and led a diamond to the queen and king. The good diamonds in dummy dispatched the losing clubs. Declarers lost two diamonds and a spade for ten tricks and 420.

Based on the lead and the bidding, declarer was likely to be 5-1-3-4. Competing to Three Hearts at unfavourable vulnerability, and not having AK of hearts, East should have reasonable clubs. Declarer needed the diamonds for tricks. The only entry in dummy was the shaky spades after exhausting declarer's diamonds. A diamond attack was not fanciful or foolish. After taking the opening lead West returned a diamond. East ruffed. Declarer took the return of a heart or a club. He could not play a spade to the jack. West's last diamond gave East a ruff setting the contract. If declarer played the ace and queen of spades smothering East's ten, West took his king and sailed a diamond. Dummy could not enjoy the diamonds as West had a trump. Declarers conceded a club for one down.

Both West missed a charismatic defence. The knee-jerk reaction, that the king of diamonds should await the queen, was illusory. Rather, the king of spades was a key card guarding the queen. The humour was that declarers might make the same play with the jack of diamonds. With king three-card West would fly a diamond at the second trick. The jack was an unnecessary surplus.

Flying over a Great Wall

1997 USA	♠ K743	
Grand National teams	♥ 93	
W/ Both vulnerable	♦ KQ109	
	♣ A32	
	♠ AQ10	♠ 62
	♥ AJ4	♥ KQ1065
	♦ A8754	♦ J63
	♣ K6	♣ Q97
	♠ J985	
	♥ 872	
	♦ 2	
	♣ J10854	

West	North	East	South
Martel	Rotman	Stansby	Peres
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥			

We sometimes needed unnecessary ruffs to create entries. South led his diamond. Identifying it as a singleton, declarer played dummy's ace. He led the king of clubs to the ace. North cashed the queen of diamonds. Peres sat South. He ruffed his partner's winner.

Peres foresaw that his partner would cash the king of diamonds, and led a fourth diamond hoping for a promotion in trumps. Due to his weak trumps, Peres knew this defence would falter. Rather, dummy's fifth diamond provided a discard for declarer. North needed a relevant king for the setting trick behind the strong dummy.

If the king was in spades, South could not wait until the third diamond. When South ruffed the third diamond and returned a spade, declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the queen of clubs, ruffed a club in dummy, ruffed a diamond, drew trumps, and enjoyed the fifth diamond for ten tricks. Declarer seemed to be protected by dummy's Great Wall. To fly over it, Peres ruffed the second diamond and flew back a spade. The third diamond was an entry for North to enjoy the king of spades for one down.

An illusory crossruff

2004 Olympiad
France v Brazil
N/ EW vulnerable

<p>♠ 854 ♥ A10643 ♦ K872 ♣ 7</p>	<p>♠ AQ ♥ QJ5 ♦ AJ ♣ J86542</p>	<p>♠ KJ9 ♥ 9 ♦ Q10963 ♣ AQ93</p>
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<p>West Villas Boas</p>	<p>North Multon</p>	<p>East Chagas</p>	<p>South Quantin</p>
	<p>1NT(strong)</p>	<p>Pass</p>	<p>2♥</p>
<p>Double</p>	<p>Pass</p>	<p>Pass</p>	<p>2♠</p>

Defenders needed to time their ruffs. Chagas won two world champion teams for Brazil. He sat East and took West's lead of a club, clearly a singleton, with his ace. An unimpeachable return of hearts, the suit doubled by partner, should yield a few crossruffs. The usually fluent Chagas, holding two valuable queens, paused. Partner should lead a heart if he had the ace and king. Declarer possessed ♥K and ♣K. As he showed weakness in the bidding, he should have only five spades and no more high cards.

East's trumps were bound for two tricks, the ingredients for a forcing defence. Ruffs could wait. Club ruffs could set up the suit for declarer. Chagas led back not a club, nor a

heart, but a delicate diamond to the king and ace. Quantin, a world team champion, played expertly the ace and queen of spades. East took with his king and led a club. West ruffed and returned a diamond to the queen. East forced declarer with a third diamond. Declarer ruffed and played hearts forcing out the ace. West played the fourth diamond. Declarer ruffed. His remaining trump and heart were losers. He conceded two down minus 100.

South played the same contract in the other room. East took the lead with the ace of clubs and led a heart to West's ace. East ruffed a heart. West ruffed a club. East ruffed the third heart, and could return a diamond to beat the contract. East, immersed in the joy of ruffing, tried another club. Declarer ruffed with the ten. When West failed to overruff, declarer played a spade to the ace dropping the king. The queen drew West's remaining trump. Declarer ruffed a club in hand. The ace of diamond was the entry to enjoy the clubs for 110. It was embarrassing as defenders halted after taking the first five tricks. Chagas boasted seven.

The law of physics

2005 Wales W/ Both vulnerable	♠ 753 ♥ AJ2 ♦ 8643 ♣ QJ8	♠ K2 ♥ 10954 ♦ A10975 ♣ A3
	♠ Q94 ♥ KQ763 ♦ KQJ ♣ 65	♠ AJ1086 ♥ 8 ♦ 2 ♣ K109742

West	North	East	South
John	Ratcliff	Charlesworth	Jourdain
1♥	Pass	2♦	2NT
3♦	3♥	4♥	4♠

A forcing defence required cooperation. North-South did well reaching 4♠, with a cue bid of 3♥ from North. West led ♦AK. Declarer ruffed the second diamond. If he used the ace of hearts as an entry for the finesse in trumps, he exposed himself to forces in hearts. Jourdain intelligently played a club to the jack and ace. Declarer ruffed the return of a third diamond, played a club to the queen, and led a spade to the ten and queen. West had

no diamonds to force declarer. The ace of heart provided an entry to finesse again in spades scoring 620.

Declarer announced his two-suits by bidding 2NT. The early club to dummy's jack, risking a ruff, aroused curiosity. It was usually clever to duck holding an ace in declarer's suit. If East allowed the jack of clubs to stand, declarer had to use this premature entry to finesse a spade to the queen. West attacked with his third diamond. Declarer ruffed and had two trumps left. If he crossed to the ace of hearts for finesse in trumps, or dropped the trump king, he could not draw the remaining trump without establishing the clubs. If he led a club to the queen and ace, East forced with the fourth diamond. Declarer could not ruff without giving a trump trick to the defence, and went down minus 100.

Based on count signals on the first club, East should detect declarer's 5-1-1-6 shape. West bid twice. A trump honour with West was a legitimate expectation. A forcing defence was writing on the wall. West held three diamonds. East should therefore let partner force declarer with a third diamond and preserved his ace of clubs for a fourth diamond. It was the law of physics. Two forces were mightier than one.

Beauty with a mask

2001 European Cup
Ladies: Germany v Israel
S/ Both vulnerable

<p>♠ A932 ♥ 2 ♦ A86 ♣ AQ654</p>	<p>♠ QJ876 ♥ 9754 ♦ J7 ♣ J2</p>	<p>♠ - ♥ AKQ63 ♦ K9532 ♣ 1073</p>
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<p>West Levit-Porat</p> <p>Pass Pass 3♥</p>	<p>North Auken</p> <p>1♠ Pass Double</p>	<p>East Campanile</p> <p>2♥ Double</p>	<p>South von Armin</p> <p>Pass 2♠ Redouble</p>
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This was forcing defence in a new dimension. The German pair showed their calibre in 1989 when they reached the semifinal of the Venice Cup. They won the Cup in 1995 and 2001 and enjoyed worldwide recognition.

West judged well not to defend Two Spades doubled. South was looking for heavy penalties when she doubled Three Hearts. She led a spade to dummy's jack and ace. Declarer ruffed and led a club to the queen. North returned a trump, taken by declarer. She played a second club. South took with her king and returned a second trump. Declarer took the trick, ruffed a club in dummy, led a diamond to her king and played another diamond. South won with the queen and played a third trump. Declarer sailed a third diamond. When the ten and ace clashed her diamonds were good making 730.

The defenders forced declarer with the lead. They switched industriously exhausting dummy's trumps. The defence needed to force declarer twice. North could overtake the queen with her ace of diamonds and return a spade. If declarer ruffed the spade declarer, South and West had one trump each. As the diamonds were not established she could ruff a diamond in dummy. She had to ruff a spade back, but that was her remaining trump, and South still had a trump going down aplenty. A better choice was ducking the coercive second spade. South took with her king and played a third trump. The ten of diamonds set the contract for minus 200.

An overtaking of the queen of diamonds required knowledge of the ten. South should therefore Queen Duck on the second diamond. North should discover the complete layout to return a spade. There were two defensive tasks, drawing dummy's trumps and forcing declarer as she might have long diamonds. Accurate defence count signals on the minors should help. Declarer's cute double in the second round masked her beautifully shaped hand, and was preparatory for a penalty-pass if West held strong spades.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith

2006 McConnell Cup semi-final
USA/ Russia v China
W/ NS vulnerable

<p>♠ AJ1076 ♥ KQ3 ♦ 75 ♣ 985</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ AJ974 ♦ KJ94 ♣ QJ7</p>	<p>♠ KQ953 ♥ 8 ♦ AQ86 ♣ K63</p>
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<p>West L P Wang 1♠</p>	<p>North Sokolow Double</p>	<p>East Yu Zhang 2♥(forcing)</p>	<p>South Molson Pass</p>
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2♠ Pass 4♥(♠fit) Pass
 4♠

Ponomareva	W F Wang	Gromova	H L Wang
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
2NT	3♦	4♠	

This hand was not about ruffs. It emphasized the difficulty in defence signals. China led 25 IMPs going into the last session. In the first room China's West declared 4♠ after her Precision opening of 1♠. She received a trump lead. After two rounds of trumps declarer led a heart to the king and ace. Seeing dummy's king, North returned the queen of clubs for one down plus 50.

In the other room natural biddings arrived at the same contract declared by East. North's Three Diamonds re-bid was instrumental. South led the two of diamonds promising a ten or an honour. The king lost to declarer's ace. After drawing trumps declarer again led a heart to the king and ace. Not knowing East's hand, North elected to return a diamond. Declarer won with the queen, ruffed a diamond in dummy, and pitched a club on the queen of hearts. She lost two clubs making 420, and won by 3 IMPs. Her team won the final.

As declarer held four diamonds a winner in diamonds could wait. South should hold an honour in clubs. The Chinese pairs were not regular partnerships. Adopting Smith signal, South played the ten on the first heart expressing disinterest in diamonds. Buoyed with confidence, North would shift to her queen of clubs to win the match. China was compensated when they won the McConnell Cup in 2010.

An old vintage

1999 USA Fall National
 Open pairs
 N/ Nil

	♠ 432	
	♥ Q62	
	♦ 53	
	♣ KQ1073	
♠ KQ10		♠ A8765
♥ 1073		♥ 9854
♦ K1062		♦ J7
♣ AJ2		♣ 98
	♠ J9	
	♥ AKJ	
	♦ AQ984	
	♣ 654	

West	North	East	South
Robinson	van Prooijen	Boyd	de Wijs
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT		

We continued with intriguing defence signals. Declarer was de Wijs. He opened 1NT with two suits unguarded. West chose his longest suit and led the deuce of diamonds. Declarer knew his spades would soon be slaughtered if he did not do something extraordinary. He smoothly accepted East's jack with his sublime ace, not the queen of diamonds. A club to his king held. De Wijs returned to hand with the ace of hearts and played another club, ducked by West. Declarer continued with a third club to the ace. West philosophized for an exit card.

East followed clubs in a reversed order, a Smith pinpointing weakness in diamonds, or showing count. Partner played the four on the ace of hearts and discarded the nine of hearts on the third club. While the signals in clubs might show count, the nine of hearts reiterated disinterest in diamonds. East-West enjoyed a long partnership, winning the Rosenblum Cup in 1986. Facts were however superior to fiction. West cashed the king of diamonds and returned a diamond anticipating eagerly a Queen Discovery from East. De Wijs took eleven tricks instead of seven. His camouflage was an old vintage. For once, one hidden queen defeated four defence signals.

CHAPTER 5

Creative entries

Entries and communication often decided the fate of contracts. This chapter described the chasing of tricks competed between declarers and defenders. A defender massaged a dummy forcing it to release premature winners, thereby losing tricks in that suit and the contract. A defender jettisoned all four of his jacks, creating an entry for partner to defeat a contract. In ‘The Archimedes principle’, a defender refused to lift up declarer’s ninth trick in 3NT, although it set up his partner’s suit. Queens remained our focus. There were hands involving enterprising jacks, companion of queens.

A rising jack

2007 Bermuda Bowl
Poland v Italy
E/ Both vulnerable

♠ Q86
♥ AQJ
♦ KQ54
♣ A94

♠ A43
♥ K953
♦ AJ8
♣ 732

♠ 105
♥ 64
♦ 10973
♣ KQJ108

♠ KJ972
♥ 10872
♦ 62
♣ 65

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Gawrys	Fantoni	Chmurski
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Double	Redouble	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠		
Jassem	Bocchi	Martens	Duboin
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Double	Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	1NT	2♣	2♥(transfer)
Pass	2♠		

This hand was about unblocking. 1NT was marionette, a non-acceptance showing less than four spades. The fashionable transfer failed to reach the popular 4♠. In the other room Poland reached it naturally. West led the deuce of clubs, ducked to the jack. East returned a club to dummy's ace. A trump was played to the king and ace. West returned a spade to the jack. Declarer led a heart to dummy's jack, cashed the queen of spades, and ruffed a club in hand. He finessed a second heart to the queen, and thought it proper to cash the ace of hearts. The operation failed as he had a loser in hearts and in diamonds, one down and minus 100.

There was a winning strategy. After declarer drew trumps and ruffed the third club, he advanced a diamond. West not only must duck, he needed to rise with the jack, Bath coup. Otherwise after the queen of diamonds and a small diamond, West was endplayed with his jack. If he cashed the ace of diamonds, declarer ruffed and finessed a heart to the queen. The king of diamonds dispatched the fourth heart in hand making 620. If West returned a heart after scoring his treasured jack, declarer finessed the queen, ruffed a diamond in hand dropping the ace. The ace of hearts in dummy was the entry to enjoy the king of diamonds. The rising jack allowed East take the second diamond with his ten and played clubs. Declarer ruffed but had to lose to the diamond ace.

Rodwell of USA showed a witty strategy. He led a diamond towards dummy after the second spade, making it difficult for West, Bertheau of Sweden, to 'jack'. Bertheau rose with his ace solving declarer's problems. Declarer had three entries in trumps. He required four entries to the diamonds and hearts. He could create another entry by playing ♠J on the first spade, the ♠Q on the second spade, and overtook with his ♠K on seeing the ten from East. No declarer appeared to have made that far-sighted play.

A tale of four jacks

2009 Sweden
E/ Nil

	♠ A105	
	♥ A9654	
	♦ 86	
	♣ 543	
♠ 842		♠ QJ63
♥ Q7		♥ J103
♦ 10742		♦ AJ3
♣ 10972		♣ AJ6
	♠ K97	
	♥ K82	
	♦ KQ95	
	♣ KQ8	

West North East South

		Fredin	
		1 ♠	1NT
Pass	2 ♦ (transfer)	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

Fredin as East was loaded with four jacks. He played his first jack when West led a spade. Declarer played his king, crossed to the ace of hearts in dummy, and led a diamond. East played his second jack, a Jack Sacrifice, to the queen. Declarer played the king of hearts and a heart, endplaying East. .

Consistent with his play, Fredin played his fourth jack, the club. His second Jack Sacrifice continued the strategy of creating entries to East. After chewing another jack with the queen of clubs, declarer attempted a diamond. West produced the magical ten, a reward for the four jack-jettisons. The lead of a spade through dummy yielded a fifth defensive trick. Holding a strong hand against 3NT, Fredin overcame an adverse Bath coup by two impressive and inspirational Jack Sacrifice.

Achilles heel

2004 Olympiad quarterfinal
Italy v Pakistan
S/ EW vulnerable

	♠ K96	
	♥ A85	
	♦ AQ10	
	♣ AQ74	
♠ AQ1084		♠ J5
♥ Q743		♥ 1092
♦ 983		♦ KJ62
♣ 5		♣ 9832
	♠ 732	
	♥ KJ5	
	♦ 754	
	♣ KJ106	

West	North	East	South
Versace	Hadi	Lauria	Shoaib
			Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♣
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
2 ♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
Fazli	Bocchi	Allana	Duboin
			Pass
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠

Double 2NT Pass 3NT

Defenders relied on entries to defeat 3NT. Both East led the jack of spades, the suit bid by partner. In the second room West ducked and took the second spade. He continued spades to the king. Bocch crossed to dummy with the ten of clubs, finessed a diamond to his ten and jack. East, having no spades, led the ten of hearts, covered by the jack, queen, and ace. Declarer cleared clubs, played the king of hearts and a heart to the nine. East was endplayed, having to lead diamonds into declarer's AQ for minus 400. East exposed his ten and nine of hearts, otherwise declarer needed to read double dummy playing an anti-percentage jack of hearts through West for the throw-in. A pedestrian second finesse in diamonds, followed by finesse in hearts, would doom the contract.

In the other room Versace as West overtook the opening lead with his queen and switched to diamonds. East took the queen with his king and returned a spade. Versace won his ace and attacked a second diamond to the ten and jack. East returned a diamond. The remaining hope for declarer was the heart finesse. It lost and Italy scored a game swing. They successfully defended their Olympiad title. Knowing his lack of entries, Versace discovered greener pastures. A weak suit in dummy was often an Achilles heel.

Give dummy a massage

2005 USA Fall National
Open pairs
W/ Both vulnerable

♠ J7	
♥ Q9643	
♦ 9	
♣ AKQ102	
♠ KQ2	♠ A843
♥ AJ75	♥ 108
♦ 1087	♦ J642
♣ 854	♣ J63
	♠ 10965
	♥ K2
	♦ AKQ53
	♣ 97

West	North	East	South
Versace		Jacobs	
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT		

3NT was a chase of tricks competed between declarers and defenders. Sometimes a queen directed you to the winning path. East led the three of spades to the queen, an indication that declarer did not hold the ace of spades. If East possessed the jack defence

had five tricks. Versace gauged that declarer was likely to be 2-5-1-5. Even if he held the diamond jack he could not overtake in dummy to run the diamonds. Three diamonds, five solid clubs, and a possible queen of hearts added up to nine tricks.

If declarer had a 2-5-2-4 shape, the defence needed to cash tricks quickly. Versace assessed this alternative in conjunction with East holding the ♠J, and decided against continuing spades. His ace of hearts guarded against the king as an entry to dummy. A fifth defensive trick in the minors was possible. He tested the waters with a lovely diamond. Declarer knew his fate. Hoping for a minor miracle he cashed three diamonds prematurely, and led a heart towards his queen. Versace greeted with his ace, cashed his king of spades, and returned a spade to the ace. East cashed the fourth diamond sinking the contract. Versace massaged the dummy to release a vital defensive trick.

Basic instinct

2009 Yeh Brothers Cup final
Netherlands v Sweden
E/ Nil

♠ 1098
♥ Q73
♦ AJ85
♣ 1098

♠ KQ
♥ A962
♦ 74
♣ KJ743

♠ J6543
♥ 1083
♦ 32
♣ Q62

♠ A72
♥ KJ4
♦ KQ1096
♣ A5

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Drijver	Nystrom	Brink
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♣(artificial)
Pass	3NT	Pass	3NT
Bakkeren	Fredin	Bertens	Fallenius
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♣(artificial)
Pass	3NT	Pass	2♦

This hand demonstrated a skillful play or defence surrounding the queens. In both rooms the lead was the three of spades, third or fifth best. When Fredin was declarer he thought it was from the fifth and ducked in dummy. It was basic instinct. Bakkeren won his queen. Knowing that partner should not have more than a side queen, there was no future in

spades. He switched to clubs, his strong suit. East was a faithful partner producing a relevant queen. The ace of hearts was the entry to run the clubs for two down and 100.

Brink evaluated the lead. West must have an honour. If it was a doubleton with the king, he might accidentally play small on dummy's ace. If it was ♠KQ there was no worry. If it was ♠KJ or ♠QJ doubleton, his ♠1098 were good stoppers. Spade could break 4-3. A duck of the first spade would only benefit when East held the ace of hearts, and West held a doubleton spade with one honour. When West held the ace of hearts, a shift to clubs seemed imminent. It was not clear if mathematical probability or basic instinct swung the decision. Brink rose with the ace and played hearts to force out the ace. He scored 400. Netherlands won and collected US\$76,000.

Archimedes principle

1997 UK London TGR S/ Nil		♠ J873 ♥ A2 ♦ KQJ5 ♣ J64	
	♠ A65 ♥ 6543 ♦ 32 ♣ K1082		♠ K1092 ♥ K87 ♦ 10987 ♣ Q5
		♠ Q4 ♥ QJ109 ♦ A64 ♣ A973	
West Pass Pass	North 2♣ 3NT	East Hallberg Pass	South 1NT(13-15) 2♥

I described the following defence as a sinking return. In 3NT West led a club to the queen and ace. Declarer played the ace of hearts, led a heart to his queen, and continued hearts to the jack and the king, discarding a spade in dummy. Most East automatically returned a club lifting the jack in dummy. Declarer had nine tricks.

Hallberg diagnosed that declarer should have the queen of spades and the ace of diamonds. The return of a club would float up a ninth trick for declarer. He sailed a diamond. If declarer took with his ace he had to cash the fourth heart and dummy had no suitable discard. If he did not cash the heart and led a club he had no entry to score the

fourth heart. In summary, declarer required two further entries in hand to float a club up and to cash his heart. The sailing of a diamond sunk the winning ninth trick. It was the Archimedes principle in Physics.

Switching your front line

2002 European Cup
Italy v Bulgaria
W/ EW vulnerable

<p>♠ AKQ2 ♥ 96 ♦ K52 ♣ J743</p>	<p>♠ 74 ♥ J104 ♦ Q87 ♣ A10984</p>	<p>♠ 93 ♥ KQ82 ♦ A10943 ♣ K2</p>
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<p>West Nanev 1♦ Pass 3NT</p>	<p>North Sementa Pass Pass</p>	<p>East Minov 1♥ 2♠</p>	<p>South Versace 1♠ Pass</p>
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<p>Duboin 1♣ 1NT</p>	<p>Stamatov Pass Pass</p>	<p>Bocchi 1♦ 3NT</p>	<p>Karaivanov Pass</p>
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Both rooms declared 3NT. In the second room North led the ten of clubs. Dummy played small. South took with the queen and returned a club to the ace. North continued clubs. Declarer won with his jack and led a diamond to the ten and jack. South had no more clubs to return. Declarer later forced out the ace of hearts, scoring three spades, one heart, four diamonds, and a club for 600. A tactical duck by South on the first trick might succeed. Declarer countered elegantly by following small in hand.

In the first room Versace as South took the lead with his queen of clubs. He deduced that partner held the ace, but was unlikely to have an entry to enjoy clubs. He switched to the jack of spades to the ace. Declarer led a diamond to the nine and jack. Versace persisted with his plan of disrupting communication. He attacked a second spade with the ten, to declarer's king. Declarer played a club. North took his ace, and returned a diamond to the king. Declarer already lost three tricks. As he had not knocked out the ace of hearts, he

refrained from cashing his winner in spades or clubs. Instead, he attempted a pressure play by cashing the diamonds. In the ending, dummy had ♥KQ82 losing two tricks for one down. If he had cashed the jack of clubs, dummy had ♥KQ8, again losing two tricks at the end.

If declarer did not cash the diamonds and tried the nine of hearts, covered by the ten and ducked in dummy, North returned a diamond. If dummy covered the ten of hearts South ducked. There might be other playing paths. The result should still be one down. If declarer did not play to the ♣K after taking the second spade, and led the heart nine to North's ten and dummy's queen, South ducked. Declarer returned to his king of diamonds and led a heart, North put up the jack to force dummy's king. Whether South ducked or not, his heart ♥75 limited dummy's ♥82 to one trick. As the queen of spades was in the wilderness, declarer had only eight tricks.

To understand the switch by Versace after his ♣Q, recall the successful switch found by Bakkeren after knowing that his partner would not have a side entry. For similar reasons Hallberg refrained from establishing the long suit of his partner, thereby denying declarer a vital trick. Versace performed a combination here.

A vanishing king

2005 Senior Bowl
Italy v Japan
N/ NS vulnerable

♠ AK72 ♥ AQ ♦ 97654 ♣ J7	♠ Q6 ♥ 865 ♦ 102 ♣ A109854	♠ 1098 ♥ J9732 ♦ AJ3 ♣ K2
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West Forquet Pass	North Abe 1♦ 3NT	East Masucci Pass	South Ino 2NT
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The significance of entries was the major consideration in this hand. South showed a balanced hand by bidding No-trump instead of One Spade. The lead of a diamond to the

ace, followed by the king of clubs and a club, would promote a trick in trumps for the defence to defeat 4♠.

In 3NT West led the ♣10. East stepped up with his king and continued clubs. West ducked to the jack. Declarer dropped the queen of spades in two rounds, and forced out the ace of diamonds. East had no clubs to return. Declarer scored ten tricks for 630.

Unless his partner held an unlikely honour in diamonds, East could anticipate four diamond tricks for declarer when declarer led diamonds through his vulnerable ♦AJ3. There were at least four tricks in the majors. A ninth was available from a relevant king or queen in the majors, or the ♣A. The ♣10 appeared to be from a long suit headed by a sole honour. Banking on West having the ♣A as his best hope, Masucci as East ducked the ♣10 lead at this table. We learned earlier that declarer could counter elegantly by ducking, which was extremely clever if East held ♣Kx, but shamefully naive if defenders next cashed an avalanche of clubs. Rather be injured than be insulted, declarer took the ♣10 with his ♣Q mechanically. When a diamond from dummy was greeted by East with his ace, a return of the vanishing ♣K for West to cover produced five winners for two down. Predictably, all other nineteen 3NT declarers made their contracts.

CHAPTER 6

Queen defence

This chapter featured hands analogous to my 1993 Bols Tip. The Bols Tip elements of Queening, Queen Camouflage, Queen Sacrifice, Queen Lead, and Queen Discovery were described in previous chapters. This chapter introduced hands of Queen (King) Hiding, Queen Seeking and Queen Drop in my Bols Tip. These were techniques to divert declarer from a winning line. There were hands where defenders hid their queens, dropped their queens as camouflages, or extracted a safe queen from opponents. The last hand featured a Queen Sacrifice working against the same world champion for a second time. Readers might rejoice that the spectacular plays were often performed by less known players against renowned experts.

Vocabulary

Queen Defence – defend skillfully with the queen.

Queen Hiding – hide a crucial queen.

Queen Seeking – play a queen unnecessarily or unnaturally.

Doomed Queen – a queen that could be naturally finessed or dropped.

Queen Drop – drop a queen unnecessarily knowing it was doomed.

Hiding partner's queen

2007 Bermuda Bowl

Sweden v Brazil

N/ Nil

	♠ 92	
	♥ Q64	
	♦ Q98	
	♣ J7653	
♠ K43		♠ QJ108765
♥ KJ983		♥ A75
♦ 743		♦ A2
♣ A4		♣ 10
	♠ A	
	♥ 102	
	♦ KJ1065	
	♣ KQ982	

West	North	East	South
Figueiredo	Efrainsson	Brenner	Morath

	Pass	1 ♠	2NT
3♦ (♠ support) 5♣		5 ♠	
Bertheau	Chagas	Nystrom	Villas Boas
	Pass	1 ♠	2NT
3♦ (♠ support) 5♣		5♦	Pass
5 ♠			

We devoted this chapter to hands related to my 1993 Bols Tip of queening your defence. Most North-South succeeded pushing opponents to Five Spades. In the first room Brenner as declarer took the lead with ace of clubs in dummy and drew trumps. South was Morath. Taking his ace, and noting the play of the discouraging jack of clubs by North on the first club, South returned crucially a diamond to the queen and ace. Declarer had to locate the queen of hearts to make his contract. He drew the remaining trump and played the king of hearts.

The bidding marked North with more hearts and the favourite to hold the queen. Declarer intended to play the jack of hearts pinning a 10x in South. Morath was alert and dropped the ten under the king. Declarer gauged Morath to have Q10 doubleton. His next play of a small heart to the ace doomed the contract for minus 50.

In the other room South led an imaginative diamond. After losing the ace of trumps and a diamond declarer led a heart towards dummy. It was more difficult for South to put up the ten. Nystrom drew the same inference, put up the king and advanced the jack of hearts to score 450. The Queening play by Morath was analogous to my Bols Tip of hiding your partner's queen. The victory points gained in this hand lifted Sweden to a quarterfinal spot edging out USA1. Norway defeated USA2 in the final.

Hiding a king

2001 USA	♠ 104	
Blue Ribbon pairs	♥ 8763	
N/ NS vulnerable	♦ 1062	
	♣ K752	
	♠ 532	♠ AKQJ76
	♥ J432	♥ AQ109
	♦ 93	♦ QJ
	♣ AJ43	♣ 9
	♠ 98	
	♥ K	
	♦ AK8754	
	♣ Q1086	

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Double	1♦
1♥	Pass	4♠	Pass

Hiding kings was next. Ralph Cohen sat East. Four Hearts was fraught with danger losing two top diamonds and being forced with a club shift. Declarer had to handle the offside king of hearts and the 4-1 break in trumps. Abandoning the fit in hearts Cohen settled for his six-card solid suit and declared 4♠. After cashing his AK of diamonds South shifted to a trump. Declarer drew trumps, played a club to the ace, and led the jack of hearts. Putting up the ace he had 11 tricks scoring 55 of 64 match points.

South held a Doomed Queen in clubs if declarer had the king. This was unlikely judging from the play. Unless partner had a singleton or doubleton club with the king, going up with the queen on the first club posed little risk. A pretension of holding KQ of clubs, the high-card points required for an opening bid, denied the king of hearts by implication. The lack of interest from South on the first club alerted declarer, dropping the singleton king. The Queen Seeking play of the queen of clubs was a Bols Tip recommendation. South missed an opportunity to hide his singleton status.

A revealing singleton

2001 Venice Cup final
Germany v France
W/ Both vulnerable

♠ 84		
♥ K86		
♦ 7632		
♣ A632		
♠ QJ953	♠ K76	
♥ Q43	♥ 105	
♦ KJ109	♦ Q54	
♣ 4	♣ KQ1087	
	♠ A102	
	♥ AJ972	
	♦ A8	
	♣ J95	

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Auken	d'Ovidio	von Armin
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Double	2♠	Double
Pass	2NT(ask)	Pass	3♥

This hand featured three Bols Tips. It decided the 2001 Venice Cup in France. The original venue of picturesque Bali was classified unsafe after 911. France did not secure a European berth in the women team. They qualified as host, and led 45.5 IMPs going into the last session. In a turn of the wheel of fortune, a string of enterprising swings from Auken and von Armin kept them from victory.

Von Armin faced many queen finding missions in the last session. She missed a vital queen on her left, who could not open 1NT with eighteen points. She dropped a doubleton queen in another hand missing four-card. Towards the end, a weak-two opening on her left semi-exposed a key jack on her right. She finessed successfully. The diagrammed hand tested her Queen Discovery skill.

In the other room France defeated 2♠ for 100 with a ruff in diamonds. In this room Germany competed to 3♥. West led her club. Declarer identified its singleton nature. She rose reasonably with dummy's ace. On reflection it worked better playing small. West should have longer trumps. Her ruff of a club might be at the expense of a winner. The risk was a second ruff if East had another entry, but East needed to possess two honours in spades or in diamonds.

Computers would define the advantages of ducking the lead. Meanwhile, von Armin focused on keeping East off the lead, and inserted her ten when she led a spade from dummy. West played her jack, and led an intellectual but standard jack of diamonds. East and declarer played small. Declarer took the continuation of a diamond with her ace. She deduced from the lead and the bidding that spades broke 5-3 and hearts broke 3-2, with length in West. West might have KJ or QJ in spades. Her diamonds should include KJ. More importantly, West should be 5-3-4-1.

West should therefore hold the queen of hearts for her overcall, and East not holding it or East should have opened. The backward finesse required a doubleton ten of hearts with East. Von Armin ventured her jack of hearts hopefully through West. It held. She cashed the ace of spades, and ruffed a spade in dummy. She cashed the king of hearts, ruffed a diamond in hand, and played the ace of hearts drawing the queen for 140 plus 1 IMP. A normal play in trumps would be one down minus 5 IMP. The margin of victory was 3.5 IMP. Germany could win the match defending two spades.

West did not compete to Three Spades. The results in both rooms did not obey the law of total tricks, another 1993 Bols Tip. 'Always lead your singleton', an earlier Bols Tip, semi-exposed the shape and honour cards in West. My 1993 Bols Tip of hiding a key queen might help. West displayed her highest cards at every opportunity to hide the crucial queen of hearts. Take the spade with the queen. Lead confidently the king of diamonds instead of the jack. These 'Seeking' plays portrayed a holding of KQ spades and KQ diamonds with West. The backward finesse in trumps would appear less attractive. Given the bidding and play these Queen Hiding manoeuvres should not distract partner. Declarer might still prevail, but West would be unimpeachable after using three Bols Tips unknowingly.

An innocent queen

2002 Thailand	♠ 63	
Far East and Pacific Bridge Championship	♥ AJ852	
Youth: Hong Kong v Australia	♦ J2	
S/ EW vulnerable	♣ AK98	
	♠ 852	♠ A1097
	♥ Q10	♥ 974
	♦ A109876	♦ 5
	♣ 75	♣ Q10642
	♠ KQJ4	
	♥ K63	
	♦ KQ43	
	♣ J3	

Queen Drop was not a joke. This hand was an easy 3NT or 4♥. If defenders did not find the ruff in diamonds declarer took eleven tricks for 450.

The Australian Moscito bidding system placed South as the declarer in 4♥. West was L H Chin. He led the seven of clubs to dummy's ace. Declarer led to the king of hearts. Chin innocently and smoothly dropped the queen. The apparently short club and singleton heart placed Chin with length in spades and diamonds. Declarer looked to lose two aces and a trump. If declarer established the side suits he risked defensive ruffs. If declarer drew trumps he might be forced in clubs and had to take a view to make his contract.

It seemed safe to ruff clubs in hand with the short trumps. Declarer cashed the king of clubs and ruffed a club, snatching a defeat from the jaws of victory. Chin overruffed, cashed the ace of diamonds, and returned a diamond. East ruffed and cashed the ace of spades to score one down plus 50. When declarer played the king, Chin knew from the AJ of hearts in dummy of his Doomed Queen. My 1993 Bols Tip recommended dropping the doomed queen early as a camouflage to test declarer. It took nine years for the Tip to be duplicated by my local talent and reported in an international bulletin.

A glamorous queen

2008 Yeh Brothers Cup	♠ KJ1076
South Africa v USA	♥ K98
E/ EW vulnerable	♦ AQ

	♣ K93	
♠ A98		♠ Q54
♥ Q542		♥ 1076
♦ J864		♦ 107532
♣ A5		♣ Q10
	♠ 32	
	♥ AJ3	
	♦ K9	
	♣ J87642	

West	North	East	South
Bosenberg	Hampson	Eber	Kranyak
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣(Stayman for 5-card major)
Pass	3♠(5-card)	Pass	3NT

This Queen Drop occurred in a world event with high cash prizes. Many South played 3NT concealing the club suit. Hampson of USA, 2010 Rosenblum Cup winner, declared 3NT as north after a 1NT opening with a five-card major. His opponents were Eber and Bosenberg, South African stars who eliminated Italy in the 2007 Bermuda Bowl. Eber as East led a small diamond to the king in dummy and queen in declarer. West played the eight suggesting four-card. East knew declarer had five spades and two diamonds, and therefore held at least three clubs.

Declarer led a club to his king. Eber, well prepared, smoothly followed with the ♣Q. He knew from the play at the first trick, maintaining the lead in dummy but exposing AQ doubleton in declarer, would only be sensible with an impending club lead. A further implication was that West had the ♣A. The fate of his queen was doomed as he also possessed the ten. After the camouflage drop of the Bols Tip ♣Q, it was not attractive for declarer to continue clubs. Fact was thicker than fiction. Declarer switched to the finesse of a heart to the jack, followed by finessing a spade to another jack, an anti-percentage play. When West took the jack with the queen of hearts and continued a diamond, declarer crossed to the ace of hearts for the finesse in spades. The result was three down minus 150.

Eber dressed up his queen, playing it in tempo, that declarer diverted his attention to the other suits. In old civilizations, kings donated their glamorous beauties to become queens of enemies, thereby securing peace. Eber saved his kingdom by a glamorous queen.

Fortune transformation

2001 Polish open team	♠ KQJ5
W/ Nil	♥ A5

	♦ AJ742	
	♣ A5	
♠ A1094		♠ 872
♥ KQ1094		♥ 62
♦ Q9		♦ 1086
♣ 74		♣ K10982
	♠ 63	
	♥ J873	
	♦ K53	
	♣ QJ63	

West	North	East	South
Latala	Siwec	Kwiecien	Tuszynski
1♥	Double	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT		

By now the doomed queen and the queen sacrifice were familiar. Latala as West led the king of hearts. Declarer was World Olympiad champion in 1984. He won with dummy's ace and played spades. West ducked the king and took the queen with his ace. He continued with the ten of spades to the jack. Declarer returned to hand with the king of diamonds. Latala followed with the queen, a Queen Drop.

To a world champion the solution was deceptively simple. West had to be 4-6-1-2 with the king of clubs. Declarer planned to finesse a club through West, cashed the ace of clubs and AJ of diamonds to confirm the Queen Drop. The fourth spade endplayed West. West had to lead hearts. The jack of hearts was the ninth trick.

The subtlety was that declarer was in hand and had no more entries. He had to take the finesse now. When the queen lost to the king of clubs in East, the return of a heart allowed West to take two tricks, and the fourth spade sunk the contract for 50. The Bols Tip succeeded again. By dropping his queen early and smoothly, Latala transformed his doomed queen into the doomed play by a world champion

Reversing an endplay

2003 USA Fall National Team Championship E/ Nil		♠ AKJ86
		♥ 942
		♦ 10
		♣ KJ96
	♠ Q5	♠ 10973
	♥ AQ7	♥ 105
	♦ K9875	♦ J43

♣ 542

♣ Q1083

♠ 42
♥ KJ863
♦ AQ62
♣ A7

West	North	East	South
Rao	Bocchi	Humphries	Duboin
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT(5+♠)	Pass	2♦(less than 3♠)
Pass	4♥		

If you thought the Bols Tip lightning did not strike twice, this episode proved otherwise. The bidding represented the new wave of responder transfer bid. The gain in its popularity reflected its distracting effect on opponents. However it was Rao who distracted declarer Duboin.

Rao led the five of clubs to the king in dummy. Declarer crossed to his ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy. He returned to his ace of clubs for a second ruff in diamonds. Rao must have been concentrating. When declarer next played a spade to the ace, Rao dropped his queen nonchalantly. Declarer took stock and led the nine of clubs. This was fatal without cashing the king of spades.

West was probably from the same school. He false carded with the queen of clubs. Declarer ruffed in hand and played his remaining diamond, ruffed in dummy, overruffed by East with the ten. East returned his fourth club. Declarer had ♠4 ♥KJ86. West had ♠5 ♥AQ7 ♦9. East's remaining trump was ♥5. Declarer had to ruff with the eight, West discarded a spade. Declarer played the king of hearts to the ace. Rao led a diamond forcing declarer to ruff. His ♥Q7 took two tricks for one down.

Should Rao not play the Queen Drop on the first spade, declarer cashed the king, ruffed a club, and ruffed a diamond. East overruffed. When East led a club, declarer had ♥KJ86, west had ♥AQ7 ♦9, East's trump was ♥5. Declarer ruffed with the eight. If west discarded declarer played the heart king and west was endplayed. If West overruffed he was also endplayed.

Rao possessed the Doomed Queen of spades. The dictated false card derailed declarer. In the 2009 Bermuda Bowl, Duboin bowed to another Queen Drop when he cashed a singleton side ace in dummy. He adopted an alternative line and failed in a slam. The defender won the best defence of the year award. He was Askari of Pakistan who dropped his queen from ♦Q52.

A fifth dimension

2004 USA Fall National
 Spingold knock-out teams
 S/ Nil

♠ AKJ652
 ♥ Q763
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 76

♠ Q107
 ♥ K82
 ♦ Q9853
 ♣ 94

♠ 983
 ♥ 95
 ♦ A1064
 ♣ AKJ5

♠ 4
 ♥ AJ104
 ♦ KJ2
 ♣ Q10832

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3NT

This hand showed a Queen Defence. The event was Spingold. Matches were tight. This explained the play of this hand in both rooms. In the first room East took the lead of a diamond with the ace and returned a diamond to the jack and queen. Taking the diamond return with the king declarer finessed spades. After cashing the spades and observing the defence signals declarer abandoned the finesse in hearts. He was correct, one down only.

In the other room the bidding was the same and Levit sat West. He also led a diamond to the ace, but ducked the jack on the return, a camouflage hiding his queen and sacrificing a trick. Declarer could finesse the queen of spades to arrive at nine tricks. Under the impression that West held good clubs when he chose to lead a paltry suit, and therefore East held the queen of spades, declarer led to the king of spades and passed the queen of hearts to the king. Levit continued a diamond resulting in two down plus 2 IMPs. His team won by 1 IMP.

Levit knew his queen of spades Doomed. He sacrificed and camouflaged at the second trick, hiding two queens in a single move. It was Bols Tip in a fifth dimension. He traded a magnificent diamond trick with four spade tricks.

Dancing queen

1997 Bermuda Bowl
 India v USA
 W/ Both vulnerable

♠ 10986
 ♥ 93
 ♦ AK3

	♣ Q1094	
♠ KJ75		♠ 4
♥ K87642		♥ Q5
♦ 10		♦ QJ9654
♣ 53		♣ K762
	♠ AQ32	
	♥ AJ10	
	♦ 872	
	♣ AJ8	

Having doubleton queen, defenders knew when to play the queen on the first round to force a premature honour from declarer. Rectifying the count was a familiar bridge vocabulary. In most tables South opened 1NT and declared 4♠ via Stayman. West led his singleton diamond, taken by dummy's king. Declarer passed the ten of spades to the jack. West returned a club to the nine. East played small. The queen of clubs was led from dummy. East ducked, preserving his king. Declarer continued a spade to his queen and the king. West returned a spade to dummy's nine. Next was a heart played to the jack. The position was as follows.

	♠ 8	
	♥ 93	
	♦ K3	
	♣ 104	
♠ 7		♠ -
♥ K87642		♥ Q5
♦		♦ QJ9
♣		♣ K7
	♠ A	
	♥ AJ10	
	♦ 87	
	♣ A	

After taking the trick with the king of hearts, any return from West squeezed East in the minors. When declarer cashed the hearts and the trump, dummy discarded a diamond. East had to unguard a minor. Declarer cashed the minor that East unguarded and scored 620 in a crisscross squeeze.

West should therefore duck the heart. Declarer could not draw trumps and played ace of hearts and a small heart. West took the rest of the tricks. If he played a small heart, East could return a club, spoiling the positions for the squeeze. If declarer cashed his ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, and led a club from dummy, West ruffed and played the king of hearts. Dummy had to discard before East. If declarer led a diamond instead of a club, East took the trick and gave West a ruff.

If East rose with a Queen Seeking heart in the diagrammed position, and declarer took with his ace and played a heart, West should still duck. Declarer could not cash the spade before playing a heart to squeeze East, because this would allow West the rest of the tricks. If he ruffed a heart in dummy the defence succeeded along the line just described.

The difficulty was detecting declarer's layout and the rectification of count. East should play the queen of hearts in the diagrammed position. Seeing the dancing queen, West could portray declarer's hand and defended accordingly. No team found the defence.

The great pretender

Kaplan Coup
N/ Nil

♠ 93
♥ AQ
♦ AQ10764
♣ 1098

♠ AK865
♥ 74
♦ 95
♣ KJ74

♠ QJ7
♥ K96
♦ K82
♣ Q632

♠ 1042
♥ J108532
♦ J3
♣ A5

West	North	East Kaplan	South
	1♦	1♠	1NT
2♥	3♦	Pass	3NT

It took more than skill to extract a treasured queen. Kaplan's articles in the Bridge World set a standard difficult to surmount. This was one of his nirvanas. You would agree that 3NT was a leisurely stroll. Kaplan showed otherwise.

Taking the deuce of spades lead with the king Kaplan delibreated. His partner did not support spades. There was little prospect in the suit. Red finesses seemed charmingly positioned for declarer. Hearts and diamonds were ripe for at least eight tricks. The ♣1098 in dummy were tall stewards guarding against unwelcome visitors. Declarer had apparently a complete queen collection. It was frustrating.

Kaplan decided to change destiny. He tabled the king of clubs with the sublime manner of holding also the ace. His partner played small, sensing that Kaplan had the ace of spades as an entry if required. When Kaplan next distributed a small club, declarer

confidently rose with the queen. A delighted West accepted with his ace. Kaplan greeted the second spade with his ace, followed by the mercurial and triumphant jack of clubs. The precious seven of clubs was a bonus for the ceremony, two down and 100.

A real and sham sacrifice

IBPA defence of year 2010	♠ 5432		
2009 Bermuda Bowl	♥ AK754		
Italy v Pakistan	♦ Q52		
W/ EW vulnerable	♣ 9		
	♠ AQJ10		♠ K9876
	♥ 3		♥ 1086
	♦ KJ9764		♦ A
	♣ 74		♣ AK102
		♠ -	
		♥ QJ92	
		♦ 1083	
		♣ QJ8653	

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Askari	Sementa	Mohinddin
1♦	1♥	Double (4+♠)	4♥
4♠	Pass	5♣(control)	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♠			

When Netherlands played USA2 they went down in 6♠. Stewart led ace and king of hearts. After ruffing the second heart, declarer Bakkeren tried the ace of diamonds, AK of clubs, intending to crossruff for twelve tricks. When Stewart ruffed the second club it was one down minus 100. His teammates sacrificed in 7♥ minus 1400. Declarer fared better if he drew a trump after the ace of diamonds, played king of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, played a trump to hand, led the good diamonds overruffing North as necessary, and returned to hand to draw trumps scoring 1430.

The Chinese Taipei South was on lead playing Germany. Her partner overtook the lead of queen of hearts and returned a club to the ace. Declarer cashed his ace of diamonds, led a spade to the ten, ruffed a diamond, and returned a spade to the queen. He ruffed another diamond establishing the suit, drew the remaining trumps, and claimed as the diamonds were good.

The play would therefore depend on an evaluation of the lengths of the minors in North. The 1993 Bols Tip advised a nonchalant and smooth dropping of a doomed queen to steer

declarer away from the winning play, not obvious here. In the diagrammed deal, Askari as North led the ace of hearts and a small heart. Duboin tested the waters by playing the ace of clubs and the ace of diamonds. Askari smoothly dropped the queen, the Bols Tip Drop. In chess it was termed a real sacrifice. If opponents took the bait, it was a sham sacrifice.

West, many times world champion, thought it safe to cash the king of clubs, as North would not have two singletons based on the bidding. Askari ruffed to defeat the contract. He knew his queen of diamonds would be doomed in three rounds, and dropped it earliest. Askari revisited his ecstasy when he received the best defence award adjudicated by the International Bridge Press Association in 2010. For Duboin it was a second lightning. He bowed to a Drop in 2003. As to Italy, they lost the final to USA1.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Queen Play

This chapter featured enhanced versions of my 1993 Bols Tip. It began with Queen Seeking hands, an entry blocking queen play by defenders, similar to the sham queen sacrifice in chess. An example was dummy had J9 trumps and you had queen five-card behind declarer. The only defence was to play the queen. Queen and Jack Discovery followed. The chapter concluded with an example where declarer did not need a Queen Discovery in a slam.

Vocabulary

Queen Play – play skillfully with the queen.

A philosophical queen

1998 India			♠ KJ632
National Team championship			♥ KQ65
E/ Both vulnerable			♦ J3
			♣ 65
	♠ Q10754		♠ A8
	♥ J102		♥ A9873
	♦ 72		♦ Q85
	♣ 984		♣ K107
			♠ 9
			♥ 4
			♦ AK10964
			♣ AQJ32
West	North	East	South
		Datar	
		1♥	2NT(minors)
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♦

Queening defence of the 1993 Bols Tip varied. In chess a sham queen sacrifice was a tactic to win the game. This bridge hand represented its philosophy. West led the jack of hearts to dummy's queen and East's ace. Datar sat East. He cashed the ace of spades. West gave count. Datar judged from the bidding and play that declarer held a 1-1-6-5 shape. His hand was also an open book for declarer. His return presented declarer with a trick in the majors or a finesse in the minors. Declarer finessed his king of clubs, cashed the ace and ruffed a club. With a friendly break in clubs, declarer finessed trumps to score 600.

Datar sacrificed his ♦Q. It was the only defence. Declarer took the trick and went to dummy with the ♦J, pitched two clubs with his kings in the majors, and finessed club once. He lost to the king of clubs for one down. The ♦Q eliminated a ruff and an entry in dummy, where the sole entry was now the ♦J. There was no defense to the philosophical queen, a sham queen sacrifice.

A sham queen sacrifice

2009	♠ 6
World Transnational Team	♥ KQ75
S/ EW vulnerable	♦ J8642
	♣ K104

♠ J9 ♥ AJ83 ♦ 9 ♣ Q98632	♠ AK1054 ♥ 10 ♦ K10753 ♣ AJ
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♠ Q8732
 ♥ 9642
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ 75

West	North Robinson	East	South Boyd
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1NT	Double	2 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♥	3 ♠	

An invincible queen sacrifice of the Datar category resurfaced eleven years later in an international bridge bulletin.

South led a heart against 3 ♠, to dummy's ace. A diamond was led to the king and ace. An exit of a club from South presented a free finesse. An exit in hearts would be ruffed by declarer. Declarer ruffed a diamond, finessed a club, cashed his ace of clubs, and played a diamond. South had to step up with the queen of spades, otherwise dummy ruffed. A heart was ruffed in hand, and the ♠AK fulfilled the contract for 140. After his ♠Q, South could return a spade to dummy's ♠J. Declarer ruffed a heart in hand, and with the ♠AK10 there were nine tricks. An exit in diamond led to a similar play and same results.

An exit of a trump would be taken by dummy's nine. Declarer finessed a club to his jack, cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a diamond, and ruffed a heart. Declarer had six tricks and ♠AK10 left. South had four trumps left and would be endplayed to lead into declarer's tenace. Boyd found the Queen Defence, the ♠Q. Declarer gratefully won with the ace, ruffed a diamond, finessed a club, cashed the club ace, and played a diamond.

The difference was that declarer had ♠K1054. South had ♠8732. North took two diamonds and led a diamond. Boyd ruffed small and returned a heart. His remaining spades were good spot cards for one down and 100. The Queen Defence eliminated a ruff and an entry to dummy. Unlike Datar's Doomed Queen, Boyd's queen was more charming sitting behind the king. Declarer could succeed if he finessed a club at the second trick, cashed the ace of clubs, and floated a low diamond.

A lonely jack

2001 Bermuda Bowl final
 USA v Norway
 W/ Both vulnerable

♠ A2
 ♥ J97
 ♦ J9
 ♣ KJ7654

♠ 1065
 ♥ Q1043
 ♦ 10654
 ♣ 109

♠ KQ8
 ♥ A82
 ♦ Q83
 ♣ Q832

♠ J9743
 ♥ K65
 ♦ AK72
 ♣ A

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Saelensminde	Weichsel	Brogeland
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠		

The diamonds in North looked familiar. After an initial Pass by North, USA2 in the second room bid and made 2♠. In the first room West led a heart to the ace against 3NT. East returned a heart to the queen when declarer ducked. Knowing his lack of entries, West switched to a spade. East took the spade with the queen and continued spades. Declarer was Brogeland. He took the trick with the ace, crossed to the ace of clubs, cashed the king of hearts, and advanced the jack of spades to the king. East was endplayed, having only minors left.

East returned a low diamond. Declarer passed to dummy's jack, cashed the king of clubs, and returned to hand to cash his winners in diamonds and spades. He scored 600. Despite losing this hand USA2 won the final.

East missed a sham queen sacrifice. He had thirteen high-card points. His partner should not have more than a queen. Declarer therefore held the top diamonds. Based on the play, his partner was likely to be 3-4-4-2. Declarer held one club, and it was the ace. The evaluation matched with the play, testing the broken spades rather than the long clubs. The ♦J9 in dummy looked familiar. Play the ♦Q. Taking the queen with his king and cashing the spades, declarer could not cash the ♦A without smothering the lonely ♦J in dummy. If he crossed to the ♦J he could not score his ♦A. Datar, Boyd, a 1993 Bols Tip, or you, should find the unbeatable Queen Defence missed.

A little bit of help

2005 Denmark			
Hecht Cup			♠ A1053
E/ Nil			♥ A85
			♦ Q7
			♣ 9752
	♠ J982		♠ Q76
	♥ 74		♥ Q63
	♦ K854		♦ AJ92
	♣ AQ4		♣ 863
			♠ K4
			♥ KJ1092
			♦ 1063
			♣ KJ10

West	North	East	South
Hagen	Blasket	Larsen	Hecht-Johansen
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥		

We turned to the technique of Queen Discovery. This hand featured in a tournament modeled on the Cavendish pairs. There was an auction pool. Most tables played 3♥ and many received a trump lead. At this table declarer welcomed the small trump lead. He let it run to his nine and advanced a diamond. West rose with the king and returned a second trump to the eight. Declarer finessed a club to the queen. West returned a diamond to the ace. East continued a trump. Declarer lost three diamonds and two clubs for one down minus 50.

At another table Fredin received the same lead of a trump. He learnt two messages. The defence would draw three rounds of trumps denying dummy a ruff. The second message was the Queen Discovery. East held three trumps with the queen. He played the ace and led a club to his jack and the queen. East gave count. West led a second trump. Declarer took the trick and played the king of clubs establishing the suit. As the fourth club in dummy provided a discard of a diamond loser, declarer lost only two diamonds making 140. A little bit of help from the opening lead enlightened declarer to a winning path.

A busy defender

A bachelor king

2008 Olympiad	♠ J1062	
Ladies team quarterfinal	♥ 984	
China v Germany	♦ 103	
N/ Nil	♣ Q654	
	♠ KQ873	♠ -
	♥ KJ75	♥ A632
	♦ A52	♦ KQJ64
	♣ 10	♣ AJ92
		♠ A954
		♥ Q10
		♦ 987
		♣ K873

West	North	East	South
H Wang	Auken	Sun	von Armin
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♥	

Not all hands required Queen Discovery. This was the first hand of the last session in a tight match. The other room played 4♥. China bid to a slam. If South led a diamond, declarer won and passed the king of spades to the ace. Winning the return, declarer finessed a heart to the jack. He ruffed a spade, cashed the AK of hearts, crossed to the diamonds to discard two spades, and had twelve tricks for 980. This line of play required either the spade or the heart finesse to be right.

Sun did not attempt to seek the queen of trumps for her bachelor king. This required a non-diamond lead. Based on the bidding South led a low club to the ace. Declarer ruffed a club in dummy, led the king of spades and ruffed. She ruffed a club, crossed to the king of diamonds, led her fourth club ruffing with dummy's jack, cashed the king of hearts, crossed to the queen of diamonds, and played the ace of hearts. On this trick Sun discarded the ace of diamonds, an Emperor's coup. She ran the diamonds. North could take the queen of trumps when she wanted. Sun had a long trump in her hand to take care of any return. The Queen Play brought 11 IMPs. China won and beat USA in the semifinal. They lost by 1 IMP to England in the final.

A psychic and a mathematician

2008 European Cup
 Germany v Poland
 Norway v Russia
 E/ NS vulnerable

♠ K75432
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ AK7
 ♣ KQ

♠ -
 ♥ 10987
 ♦ Q10654
 ♣ 10982

♠ AJ6
 ♥ Q43
 ♦ J82
 ♣ J753

♠ Q1098
 ♥ K652
 ♦ 93
 ♣ A64

West Lund	North Khiouppen	East Helgemo	South Kholomeev	Norway v Russia
2♦ (weak)	Double	Pass	Pass	
2♥	2♠	Redouble	Pass	
		Pass	4♠	

Gierulski	Gromoeller	Skrzypczak	Kirmse	Poland v Germany
1♦	Double	Pass	Pass	
Pass	4♠	1NT	2♦	

Finding a jack was fun and agony. Almost all tables bid 6♠. In the diagrammed tables Norway and Poland attempted a psychic opening by West, a third seat non-vulnerable gambit deployed by some experts. Their opponents missed the slam. There were similar results at other tables.

Once West passed in his first round North declared 6♠. A club was led. Molberg of Norway, the eventual champion team, won in hand. He thought it straightforward to draw trumps by delivering a spade towards the queen. Jagniewski of Poland did the same. Both went down losing two trumps to the ♠AJ6, an 11% chance. Their natural hand movements, repeated by numerous other declarers, frustrated the psychic bids of their teammates. If the diagrammed tables reached the slam, declarers should succeed smelling spade shortage in West.

There was a left-hander. Bompis of France played the king of spades without any bidding clues. He portrayed from the lead that East had a balanced hand. There was no report of declarers attempting a Jack Discovery. The percentage of a singleton diamond was about 3%. A mathematician cashed the top diamonds before touching trumps. When the second diamond dropped an eight from East, declarer played the king of spades first. The risk was West had ♠J6 and doubleton diamonds, a diamond through dummy after the ace of spades promoted the jack, or vice versa, about 2% chance. However, a mundane West

might accidentally drop a psychic queen or ten on the second diamond, the Bols Tip. This attracted declarer to play a spade to his queen. A psychic drop defeated a dedicated mathematician.

CHAPTER 8

Trump soldiers

The concluding chapter focused on defence with trump strengths. Trumps included KJ107 and J10432 against slams, QJ42 and KJ93 against games, and Q74 and Q92 against slams. Defenders had to play hide-or-seeK with declarer. In one hand, the defender had to contribute his queen of trumps from a three-card holding to beat the slam. The sole question for defenders, as in ‘Sleeping with your enemy’, was to cover or not with their trump honour. The hands illustrated that while a formula was unavailable, there were often emerging clues. The book ended with ‘A submarine in heaven’, a slam where a defender faced a lead with J1098 four-card in dummy. He held AKQ six-card. The only defence was a divine duck of the jack.

A beloved lady

2001 USA Fall National
Open pairs
S/ Both vulnerable

<p>♠ 10962 ♥ 10 ♦ Q8763 ♣ 983</p>	<p>♠ 43 ♥ J62 ♦ 542 ♣ QJ1062</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♥ Q874 ♦ KJ9 ♣ K754</p> <p>♠ AKJ85 ♥ AK953 ♦ A10 ♣ A</p>
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West	North	East	South
			2♣(strong)
Pass	2♦(relay)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣(weak)	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♥

This chapter described hands with good trumps. Undoubtedly it involved the trump queen. This hand was about queen hiding. A natural sequence resulted in an embarrassing Five-level contract. West inserted the jack on partner’s low diamond lead. Declarer ducked. East continued diamonds to the ace. Declarer cashed the ace and king of spades, ace of hearts, noting the ten from West. He led a small spade and ruffed with the jack in dummy.

East counted declarer to have 5-5 in the majors, and two minor-suit aces, to justify his aggressiveness. An overruff would unlikely gain. His remaining ♥87 would be easy meat for the ♥K9 of declarer. Defenders needed two more tricks. His ♥Q87 scored at least a trick. Declarer might need to ruff a spade loser in dummy. He declined to overruff.

Having concentrated before the first trick, East discarded a club under the ♥J smoothly and quickly. Declarer played a heart to his king to drop the presumed doubleton-queen, otherwise a further spade from West promoted a trump trick for East. He lost two hearts conceding 100. East shielded his beloved lady from an unwelcome pursuit. He did it with foresight on a fast track.

Lonely jack versus lonely queen

1999 Netherlands
 Cap Gemini pairs
 W/ NS vulnerable

♠ KQ97654	♥ Q	♦ Q92	♣ 76	♠ -	♥ 53	♦ KJ43	♣ AJ109852	♠ AJ83	♥ 109764	♦ 7	♣ KQ4
				♠ 102	♥ AKJ82	♦ A10865	♣ 3				

West	North	East	South
Versace	Justin Hackett	Lauria	Jason Hackett
3♠	4♣	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦		
Westerhof	Helness	Jansen	Helgemo
3♠	4♣	4♠	Double
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦

This hand was about hide-and-seek with queens. The occasion was an annual pairs-event. The organizers invited three Netherlands pairs and thirteen international pairs to compete for trophies and cash prizes. Like Bols Tip, the event was history.

Many tables reached a slam. At the first table declarer ruffed the ♠K lead. He played a heart to his ace dropping the queen. It seemed appropriate to establish clubs. The ace of clubs and a club ruff revealed a 3-2 break. East dropped his king. South thought of playing two rounds of trumps. If trumps broke even, a second club ruff established the suit. Dummy still had a trump to enjoy the clubs for thirteen tricks. The danger was a 3-1 break in trumps. There were inadequate entries to run the clubs.

If declarer ruffed his last spade in dummy, ruffed a club back small, an overruff by West was welcome. He took the spade return in hand, played two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and ran the clubs. West should therefore discard instead of overruffing. Declarer played a winning heart. Again West should discard. Declarer ruffed a heart with the ♦J in dummy, played the ♦K, and led a winning club discarding a heart loser. West could ruff at the expense of his trump trick. Helgemo adopted this successful line at the second table.

At the first table declarer played the ♦K after the club ruff. This was fatal. He ruffed the third club with his ♦10. Versace as West refused to overruff with his ♦Q, pitching a spade eloquently. Otherwise the ♦J4 in dummy could ruff a spade return small, drew trumps with the jack and claimed. Declarer tried the jack of hearts. West ruffed. He forced dummy with a spade. The lone ♦J in dummy could not draw the lone ♦Q in West. Dummy had to play a club. After a short wait, Versace ruffed with his queen punctually to defeat the contract.

An arithmetic subtraction

1991 USA	♠ A432	
Vanderbilt knock-out teams	♥ A76	
N/ NS vulnerable	♦ K94	
	♣ K53	
	♠ Q1065	♠ KJ987
	♥ J8542	♥ K103
	♦ 5	♦ QJ103
	♣ Q74	♣ 8
	♠ -	
	♥ Q9	
	♦ A8762	
	♣ AJ10962	

West	North	East	South
			Larry Cohen
	1NT(14-16)	2♥(♠+minor)	3♠(short)
Double	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣

Finding a defender with queen three-card in trumps was only part of the job. This hand was about queen seeking. West led a diamond to the ace. Declarer returned a diamond. West declined to ruff discarding a heart. The king in dummy took the trick. If declarer played a third round of diamonds, a continuation by East would be ruffed by West with a trump higher than the five forcing the king. The contract failed when West had three trumps with the queen.

Cohen found a Queen Play based on the competitive bidding. He ruffed a small spade in hand and launched the nasty nine of clubs, passing through West. Only then did he play a diamond. East took the trick. On a diamond continuation West did force the king of clubs with his seven. However, the ace later swallowed his lone queen for 1370.

The bidding and play should also inform West of the distributions in the minors, and the need of a diamond ruff in dummy. A Queen Discovery of the trumps should not escape an expert declarer, who would envision an uneven break in trumps and finessed the queen through West. The queen of clubs was fictionally a Doomed Queen. West should therefore consider covering the nasty nine with his queen, Bols Tip. Importantly, after chewing the queen with the king, the ♣53 in dummy could not overruff the ♣74 in West. After passing the ♣9, West had ♣Q7, which could not force the ♣K5 in dummy without losing his queen. It was an exercise in a simple arithmetic subtraction.

Patience

2009 Venice Cup final
China v USA
E/ Both vulnerable

♠ Q75 ♥ 74 ♦ AJ53 ♣ J763	♠ K1062 ♥ J ♦ 864 ♣ AQ852	♠ A984 ♥ KQ9653 ♦ 109 ♣ 4
	♠ J3 ♥ A1082 ♦ KQ72 ♣ K109	

West	North	East	South
Sun	Levitina	H L Wang	Sanborn
1NT	Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	Double	2♥	Pass
		Pass	3♦

We continued the theme of defenders possessing good trumps. West held a Bath-coup combination of trumps. In the other room Liu and W F Wang of China defended 2♥ two down plus 200. In the Bermuda Bowl final 3♦ scored 110. West took the first round of trump with the ace. Declarer drew one more round. He had three clubs, one trick each in the other suits, a heart ruff and a spade ruff. As West had four clubs declarer could ruff the fourth club for his ninth trick.

In this room Sun led a heart to the queen and ace. Declarer led a spade to the ten and ace. East returned a spade to the jack, queen and king. Declarer led a diamond to the king. Sun ducked. This was the key patience play, a Bath coup.

Declarer ruffed a heart in dummy. If she drew a trump to the queen, West played two rounds and pressed declarer to ruff a spade. On reflection, West did not bid One Spade or support hearts, or gave East a club ruff. West was probably 3-2-4-4, which fit with 4-6-2-1 of East. Declarer should guess the layout of the clubs scoring 110.

Declarer, not wanting to waste the remaining trump in dummy, led a club to her king for another heart ruff. West discarded a spade. The play of the ace of clubs was fatal as East ruffed, cashed her king of hearts, and led a spade. West overruffed the ♦2 with her ♦5. West continued a club, and her ♦AJ scored the last two tricks for 200. China defeated USA for their first ladies crown.

Sleeping with your enemy

2005 Australia
National teams
S/ Nil

<p>♠ 108763 ♥ KJ742 ♦ 72 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ 4 ♥ A986 ♦ AQJ8 ♣ 9654</p>	<p>♠ Q2 ♥ Q53 ♦ 10965 ♣ KJ107</p>
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<p>West Pass</p>	<p>North Lester 2♦</p>	<p>East Pass</p>	<p>South Bourke 1♠ 3♣</p>
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Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♣		

One should never complain defending a slam with KJ107 of trumps. This hand described classic finesses holding AQ98. West led a heart, the fourth suit bid by dummy. Bourke declared. He put up the ace from dummy and led a small club to the eight. He cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, led a second club to his queen, and ruffed a second spade with the nine. East had ♣KJ. Declarer had ♣A2. If East overruffed Bourke could win or ruff the return, drew the remaining trump in East and claimed. If East declined to ruff declarer played out his diamond and spade winners until East ruffed. Declarer was in command with the ace of clubs.

A club to the eight was entirely proper catering for ♣J10 in East. East slept with his enemy. Insert the ten on the first trump. Declarer covered with his queen, played ace of spades, ruffed a spade, and led a club. East inserted his jack. Declarer covered with the ace and ruffed a second spade high. East had ♣K7 and declarer had ♣82. East discarded a diamond. If declarer played four rounds of diamonds, East discarded a heart. Declarer had only hearts in dummy. He had to force himself on the next heart and East took the last tricks, a reverse trump coup. If declarer ruffed a heart and played four rounds of diamonds, east ruffed the fourth round with the king and played a heart. Declarer had to ruff with his remaining trump. East's fourth trump sunk the slam plus 50.

The clue was an entry to force declarer in hearts. The trump insertions allowed East to ruff high with his third trump. His fourth trump would score after forcing declarer. If declarer adopted an alternative, the trump insertions were preparatory for a trump coup. East would be in command instead of declarer. By analyzing the flows of the play, East could decide whether he should split his trump honours. East slept and waited in vain.

A stripping chase

2008 USA
 Open team trials
 N/ Both vulnerable

	♠ Q642	
	♥ 4	
	♦ AKQ85	
	♣ K84	
♠ 7		♠ KJ83
♥ KQJ10632		♥ 987
♦ 1094		♦ 72
♣ 95		♣ AQJ3
	♠ A1095	
	♥ A5	
	♦ J63	
	♣ 10762	

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠

A workable formula for defenders with strong trumps was unavailable. A side-queen was more relevant than the queen of trumps in this hand. West led the king of hearts to the ace. Declarer ruffed a heart in dummy, led the queen of spades to the king and ace. Declarer played the ten of spades.

If East played the jack and returned a diamond or a trump, declarer finessed the ♠83 in East with ♠95 in hand, drew trumps and claimed. Declarer scored three trumps, one ruff, the ace of hearts, and five diamonds. If East played the jack and returned a heart, declarer ruffed in dummy pitching a club in hand. He played a diamond to his jack, cashed the nine of spades, and played diamonds. If East resisted to ruff declarer had ten tricks. If East ruffed he had only clubs left, and must give dummy a club trick. Declarer lost two trumps and a club.

East therefore ducked the ten of spades. Declarer played the ace of diamonds and forwarded the last spade in dummy. If East played the jack he could play his last heart. After ruffing in hand declarer played out the diamonds. Again, once East ruffed he had only clubs left and must give dummy a club trick for the contract minus 620. East therefore ducked the third spade. Declarer played out his diamonds. East ruffed the third round and led a heart. Declarer had to ruff and was stripped down to only clubs. When he led a small club West rose with the nine and declarer must go down. If declarer passed the ten of clubs through, East must duck, and took the last three tricks with his clubs.

It demanded countless ducks to set the contract. No East managed this feat. The ducks stripped declarer down to clubs, rather than being stripped by declarer. Stripping was an old wine. The difficulty was the itchy feeling your strong trumps were destined to win an earlier trick, and forgot the gadget of a stripping chase, an advanced test in endplay.

Familiar trump faces

2007 NEC Cup	♠ -	
Netherlands v UK/Norway	♥ KJ10743	
N/ Nil	♦ Q743	
	♣ 542	
	♠ AK87	♠ 109653
	♥ Q962	♥ A
	♦ 92	♦ AK85
	♣ J109	♣ K87
	♠ QJ42	

♥ 85
 ♦ J106
 ♣ AQ63

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Jacobs	Armstrong	Schollaardt
	2♥	Double	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	
Bertens	Justin Hackett	Bakkeren	Jason Hackett
	3♥	Double	Pass
4♠			

Defending with queen jack four-card trumps could be nightmares. The popular contract was Four Spades. North led a club to the queen when dummy ducked. South cashed the ace of clubs.

In Australia v Poland, Zmudzinski of Poland returned a club. Declarer played a spade to the ace, noting the 4-0 break. He crossed to the ace of hearts, and advanced a spade. South split his queen. Declarer took the queen with his king, cashed the top diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, and led the fourth diamond from dummy. South had ♠J4. Declarer (West) had ♠7. Dummy had ♠109. If South ruffed small declarer overruffed. South scored only the ♠J. If South discarded, declarer ruffed. Each player had two cards left. Dummy scored a spade to make the contract. The play at other tables was similar.

In the first room North led a small diamond to the ace in dummy. Declarer played the ace of spades and passed the jack of clubs to the queen. South was Schollaardt of Netherlands. He continued with the ten of diamonds to the king in dummy. A spade was led. Schollaardt did not split his trumps, the real divergence from other defenders. Declarer gratefully took the spade with his seven, crossed to the ace of hearts, and played the king of clubs to the ace. South continued a third diamond. Declarer ruffed with his eight. Declarer (West) had ♠K ♥Q96 ♣10. South had ♠QJ ♥5 ♣63. Dummy had ♠1096 ♦8 ♣8. If declarer ruffed the fourth diamond the ♠QJ scored two tricks for one down. He ruffed a heart, crossed to his ten of clubs, and ruffed another heart. South overruffed and played a trump exhausting that of declarer and dummy. Declarer had to lose his remaining heart for minus 50. Declarer would make his contract if south had three hearts and three clubs.

Schollaardt realized that his ♠QJ scored a trick. As declarer needed to ruff two diamonds in hand, splitting his spade honours seemed futile. He could also overruff dummy in hearts. Once you realized declarer needed to ruff two diamonds, the Dutch duck should not be a copyright. Netherlands won the event.

A scented ruff

2000 USA		♠ A98	
Spingold knock-out teams		♥ 8	
W/ Both vulnerable		♦ KQ10975	
		♣ Q54	
	♠ -		♠ J10432
	♥ QJ10542		♥ K63
	♦ 8632		♦ A4
	♣ 972		♣ 1086
		♠ KQ765	
		♥ A97	
		♦ J	
		♣ AKJ3	

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Weichsel	Hamman	Sontag
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT(ask)
Pass	3♥(3-1-6-3)	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠

The question of splitting trumps moved to J10 five-card. The defender held a side ace. It was a slam. Based on the bidding by North, West led a club rather than a heart. Sontag let the lead run to his ace. He led a spade to the ace, discovering the 5-0 break, and continued with the nine. East covered with the ten, taken by the queen. Declarer led the jack of diamonds to the king in dummy. East played the ace and returned a heart to the ace. Declarer crossed to dummy with the queen of clubs to play diamonds, discarding a heart. East had ♠J43. Declarer (South) had ♠K76. Dummy had ♠8. East ruffed the third round of diamonds. Declarer overruffed, ruffed a heart in dummy, and continued diamonds, overruffing when East ruffed, drew trumps and claimed 1430. If East discarded on the third diamond, declarer discarded his remaining heart, played the ♠8, and continued diamonds to operate a trump coup against ♠J4 in East.

If East did not split his trumps, he retained ♠J104 and not ♠J43. He took the first diamond with his ace and drew a trump with the ten. This removed a potential ruff and entry in dummy. The queen of clubs was the sole entry in dummy to run the diamonds. East had ♠J4 and ruffed the third round of diamonds. Declarer overruffed and had to lose a heart. With ♠J43, East could not play the jack without losing the hand. If he led a small one to the ♠8 in dummy, declarer succeeded along the lines described. Retention of ♠J104 was important when you smelt the scent of a heart ruff and assessed the shape of declarer. Declarer could not ruff a heart in dummy before playing diamonds. Defenders had a heart to cash.

A defensive trump squeeze

2007 European Club cup	♠ Q53	
Poland/ Russia v Hungary	♥ Q9843	
E/ EW vulnerable	♦ AQJ	
	♣ Q2	
	♠ KJ98	♠ A742
	♥ -	♥ J1062
	♦ 1086	♦ 52
	♣ A109763	♣ J85
	♠ 106	
	♥ AK75	
	♦ K9743	
	♣ K4	

West	North	East	South
Hommonay	Gromov	Winkler	Dubinín
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥		

Zmudzinski	Macskasy	Balicki	Lakatos
		Pass	1♦
1NT*	Double	2♦(major)	Double
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥

*4 card major + a longer minor suit

This hand featured four defence trumps headed by the jack ten. With no bidding to guide him, East in the first room led a diamond. Declarer won and led a heart to the queen. When West showed out declarer finessed towards his AK7 of hearts. East inserted his jack, to the ace. Declarer returned to hand to repeat the finesse in hearts. He drew trumps and discarded two spades on the long diamonds. He lost a spade and a diamond making 450.

The defenders in the other room were well known. Their Polish 1NT takeout steered East to lead a club to the ace. West attacked spade with the jack, to the queen and ace. East continued a spade to the king. The third spade forced a ruff in dummy. The safety play in the trumps vaporized. Unless declarer led a heart to the seven on the first trump, he went down. This enterprising ‘defensive trump squeeze’ was termed a punch. Defenders executed four thunderous punches to save their delicate trumps.

A submarine in heaven

1991 USA Rubber bridge E/ NS vulnerable		♠ J1098 ♥ QJ10 ♦ K98 ♣ AK3
	♠ 765	♠ AKQ432
	♥ -	♥ 543
	♦ 76432	♦ AJ10
	♣ QJ854	♣ 2
		♠ -
		♥ AK98762
		♦ Q5
		♣ 10976

West	North P Pavlicek	East	South R Pavlicek
		1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥		

If we could squeeze declarer in trumps we could squeeze him on the first trick. Any East would cover the jack in dummy when partner led a spade. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the ten of hearts and led a small diamond, Morton's fork. East ducked. Winning the trick with the queen, declarer crossed to the jack of hearts and played a spade. East covered and declarer ruffed. Based on the bidding and play, declarer decided that East was short in clubs and West had the queen and jack of clubs, a Queen Discovery.

Declarer drew trumps and advanced the ten of clubs, covered by the queen and king. Declarer led a third spade from dummy, covered by East and ruffed in hand. The fourth spade in dummy was now good. Declarer led the nine of clubs, covered by the jack and ace. The fourth spade discarded a diamond. The ♣76 in hand lost a trick to the ♣85 in West. Pavlicek played faultlessly fulfilling the slam.

If after the first trump to dummy and a diamond continuation, East rose with his ace. Declarer took the return and crossed to dummy twice. He led spade twice to ruff out the top spades in East. He cashed the queen of diamonds and crossed to dummy with a top club. The king of diamonds and the fourth spade provided discards for two losing clubs. In actual play, East ducked when the second spade was led. Declarer discarded his remaining diamond and ruffed a diamond in hand, and proceeded with the club play described.

Ducking a spade by East was actually the only defence, but on the first trick. It squeezed declarer for a suitable discard. If declarer discarded a diamond, East rose with the ace on the first diamond smothering the queen. The king could park a club. There remained a club loser. The ♠1098 in dummy, facing an earthly ♠AKQ in East, could not provide a further spade trick. If declarer discarded a club on the first trick, East ducked when a diamond was led from dummy. The diamond and club loser could not escape. This defence of forcing declarer a premature discard, termed submarine, was not new. East knew from the bidding that South had a void in spades. The diamond positions were the familiar Morton's fork. The recommended defence to a fork was submarine.

A holy angel in heaven, flying high in a submarine, might find the divine duck on the first spade. 'We all live in a yellow submarine' were the lyrics of a song. Yes we can, and find a similar duck in our next adventure.