

Learning Points – 4 Decisions On Defense

by Steve Moese (Mike Purcell ed.)

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Bidding LEVEL: Intermediate

Tuesday Evening January 19, 2010, Cincinnati
Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper
Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070 . Ms.
Annaease Comer, Director.

Here are 4 decisions on defense. Can you get 26 of 32 possible Match Points (81+%) from these 4 hands? How would you fare? Results on page 2.

Hand I. You are East

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♦
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
East leads ♦K			

N	♠ 8732
W 5 E	♥ A1072
S	♦ K6
	♣ K98
♠ A4	N deals
♥ KQ85	NS Vul
♦ 97	
♣ J10754	

Opponent's bid slowly to a vulnerable game. You dutifully lead partner's suit and ruff the 3rd round of ♦ (uppercut dummy), the ♦ J falling under partner's ♦ Q. Declarer over-ruffs with the ♠A and draws 3 rounds of trumps then plays the ♥ J. **Your play?**

Hand II. You are West

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♣	1N	Pass
All Pass			
East leads ♣4			

♠ AQ6	N
♥ K1085	W 19 E
♦ KQ6	S
♣ 1087	
S Deals	♠ K1084
EW Vul	♥ Q62
	♦ 107
	♣ J532

Simple auction, simple lead. Declarer wins with the ♣K and leads ♠2 finessing the ♠10 into your ♠Q. You switch to the ♦K, ♦A, ♦2, ♦7. Declarer plays the ♠3, ♠7, ♠K, and you win your ♠A. **Your play?**

Hand III. You are East

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2N
Pass	3N	All Pass	
East leads ♣Q			

N	♠ 6
W 26 E	♥ 10987
S	♦ KJ54
	♣ QJ109
♠ J1087	E deals
♥ KQ6	Both Vul
♦ Q1092	
♣ 64	

This could have been an opening lead problem. **1) Do you agree with the opening Lead?** You win the 1st trick (♣Q, ♣4, ♠2, ♣5) and continue the ♣9 (Best to show partner the lowest of touching equals on the 2nd lead), ♣6, ♣3, ♠K. Declarer puts the ♦3 on the table. **2) Your play?**

Hand IV. You are East

North	East	South	West
1♠	2♥	3♦	4♥
4♠	All Pass		
East leads ♥A			

N	♠ A97
W 13 E	♥ AQ853
S	♦ K
	♣ 10852
♠ 8	N deals
♥ K10	Both Vul
♦ Q108764	
♣ KQ76	

Your Ace survives (♥10, ♥6, ♥7). You ponder the hand and try the ♠10, ♣Q, ♣9, ♣3. Declarer calls for the ♥K, ♥2, ♠J, ♥3. Then the ♠Q, ♠4, ♠3, to you. **Your play?**

Results follow on the next page.

4 Hands on Defense Results

Hand I. Counting declarer's shape is important. Declarer showed 3 ♦ and failed to play on ♣s. Play declarer for 6232 and let the ♥J win. Take the ♥A on the 2nd trick and lead a small ♣. Yes, when declarer is trying to get to the board, don't let her.

Leading ♣s into declarer might seem counter intuitive when you hold the ♣K, but if partner holds the ♣Q, declarer is locked in her hand and must give you the setting trick.

If you mechanically play the ♥A at trick 7, declarer pockets a game and you get a bottom score!

EW Score: +100 for 7 MP, -620 for ½ MP

E Deals	♠ KQJ965		
Both Vul	♥ J3		
MPs	♦ J102		
	♣ A2		
♠ 10		N	♠ 8732
♥ 964		W 5	♥ A1072
♦ AQ8543		E	♦ K6
♣ Q63		S	♣ K98
	♠ A4		
	♥ KQ85		
	♦ 97		
	♣ J10754		

E Deals	♠ J932		
EW Vul	♥ AJ7		
MPs	♦ A854		
	♣ KQ		
♠ AQ6		N	♠ 75
♥ K1085		W 19	♥ 943
♦ KQ6		E	♦ J932
♣ 1087		S	♣ A964
	♠ K1084		
	♥ Q62		
	♦ 107		
	♣ J532		

Hand II.

You could return a ♣, but partner's card on the ♦K suggest returning ♦s (low = like, high = don't bother). The point is partner doesn't promise the ♣A. You play the ♦Q and ♦6 won by partner's ♦J. Partner clears the ♦s and plays the ♣A on which declarer plays the ♣Q. The ♣6 puts declarer on the board. Now declarer must break ♥s and we get the setting trick from the 4th suit. West must cover the ♥Q if declarer tries that from dummy. Nicely done.

EW Score: +50 for 8 MPs, -90 for 7 MPs, -110 for 4½ Imps

Hand III. Win the ♦K (There's a chance declarer will not find the ♦J) and play back a ♣. Partner wins the ♣A and clears the suit. Now a passive ♥ return leaves the ♠s to declarer. If you open ♠s too early yourself partner might be tempted to play his ♠K. As it turns out declarer has 9 tricks. Ducking the ♦K or switching to any other suit gives away a valuable overtrick.

EW Score: -600 for 5 MPS, -630 for 1½ IMPS

Note how any other lead gives declarer a tempo and an overtrick. Leading from a solid sequence with power to your right is usually safe.

E Deals	♠ AQ9		
Both Vul	♥ AJ54		
MPs	♦ A73		
	♣ K85		
♠ K5432		N	♠ 6
♥ 32		W 26	♥ 10987
♦ 86		E	♦ KJ54
♣ A732		S	♣ QJ109
	♠ J1087		
	♥ KQ6		
	♦ Q1092		
	♣ 64		

Hand IV.

E Deals	♠ KQJ10632		
Both Vul	♥ 7		
MPs	♦ A		
	♣ AJ43		
♠ 54		N	♠ A97
♥ J9642		W 13	♥ AQ853
♦ J9532		E	♦ K
♣ 9		S	♣ 10852
	♠ 8		
	♥ K10		
	♦ Q108764		
	♣ KQ76		

Do you really think declarer has only a doubleton ♣ without the ♣A? Of course not. Partner would have taken the ♣A on the 1st trick if he had it. Play back a ♣. Partner must be short.

EW Score: -620 for 6 -650 for 2

Let's ignore the two NS pairs that bid to an unmakeable slam off 2 Aces. Our opponents never do that for us.