

Learning Points – Play a Partial for All It’s Worth

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Declarer Play Level: Basic/Intermediate

Thursday Night Club Game, October 14, 2010 Mrs. Annease Comer, Director. Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070 . Mike Purcell is my partner. We play a 2/1 version of Precision.

North Deals	♠ KQ7
EW Vul	♥ 1054
MPs	♦ 109764
	♣ QJ

♠	N	♠
♥	W 25 E	♥
♦	S	♦
♣		♣

♠ A983
♥ AQJ98
♦ 2
♣ 762

The Bidding

East’s balancing double shows shape or extra strength. (EW opens 15-17 HCP 1NT). South’s 1♥ overcall is better than an off-shape takeout double. South will get ♠s in later if right. After 2 passes and RHO’s takeout double, South completes the hand description at the 1 level. North takes a preference to ♥s and East passes. There’s been too much bidding without partner. East has the best hand.

North	East	South	West
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
Pass	Double	1♠	Pass
2♥	All Pass		
West leads ♣A			

The Play

Declarer can see 4 losers (1♥, 1♦, and 2♣s) assuming trumps behave. Declarer hopes to avoid being forced in ♦s. The ♣A lead incurs a small risk that West might promote South’s ♣K. However on this hand the lead

North Deals	♠ KQ7
EW Vul	♥ 1054
MPs	♦ 109764
	♣ QJ

♠ J104	N	♠ 652
♥ 63	W 25 E	♥ K72
♦ J853	S	♦ AKQ
♣ A943		♣ K1095

♠ A983	NS:3♥,3♠,
♥ AQJ98	EW:2♣
♦ 2	
♣ 762	

falls the ♣J from dummy, East encouraging. West obliges by continuing the ♣3, low from an original 4 card holding. East wins the ♣K and switches to the ♦K, winning the trick. The ♦Q is ruffed by declarer, West contributing the ♦2. Declarer ruffs a ♣ on the board and leads the ♥10 for a finesse of East’s presumed ♥K. The ♥10 allows 2 finesses – RHO should not have 4♥s on this auction. The ♥K drops on the 3rd round and when the spades break 3-3 NS score up 2♠ making 4 for +170 and 5 of 5 match points. *This match was played as a Howell or One-Winner movement, so the Press Report shows positive and negative scores based on the result and direction at the table. The * indicates EW scores.*

Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MPs	1.5	1	4	3.5	1	0	1	5	1.5	4	4	3.5
Score	-140*	-150	150*	140	-150	-170*	-150	170	-140*	150*	150*	140

Post Mortem

A ♦ lead and ♦ continuations challenges declarer. Declarer must ruff the 2nd ♦ and play a ♠ to dummy. A small trump finessing East’s ♥K, followed by a ♣ continuation is best. South cannot take 2 ♥ finesses early (East wins either the 1st or 2nd ♣ then kills the ♣ ruff by leading the ♥K). Repeated ♦ leads force declarer’s trumps so that EW will score the ♦J or ♥K, limiting declarer to making 3 for +140 and +2 MPs. Yes, East could open 1N. Getting to ♥s is harder, especially when using a 2-suited overcall of 1NT for the majors. North will usually prefer ♠s unless your 2-suited approach liberally allows for 4=5 hands.

Learning Points

1. Leading an unsupported Ace in partner’s suit should be based on analysis and insight. Otherwise lead something else. Consider an attacking lead when defending partials.
2. When opening the bidding, don’t distort your hand. If a single bid describes it well, use that bid! The player you confuse might be partner.

Keywords: Active or Passive Defense, Leading an Ace in Partner’s suit, forcing defense.