

ANSWER for previous question

The answer is: To be a defender. Have you got it right?

Thank you for the overwhelming responses from you. Some of you gave the answers over the phone while three others send over through e-mail with just one correct answer by Ng Yong Hao from NTU 1 - well done! Yong Hao has won himself a designer pack of playing cards. Congratulations!

NORTH		
♠ K Q 7		
♥ 6 5		
♦ T 7 6		
♣ K Q 6 5 2		
WEST		EAST
♠ 2		♠ A J 8 5 3
♥ 8 4		♥ A K 7 3 2
♦ Q J 9 4 3 2		♦ 8
♣ T 8 7 3		♣ 9 4
	SOUTH	
	♠ T 9 6 4	
	♥ Q J T 9	
	♦ A K 5	
	♣ A J	

As you study the hand carefully, any lead with the exception of ♠2, you can find a solution to make the contract with proper counting. Tricks are five clubs, two diamonds and two in each major.

The ♠2 lead gives a lot of hustle to the contract and defenders need to follow up with water-tight defensive plays, because even with this highly imaginative lead, the contract would still be safe if the following defensive lines are not followed accordingly:

Killing Defense 1: Ducking of the first spade is a must. Otherwise, the contract is cold.

Killing Defense 2: Even though you have ducked the first spade, you are required to make the next move correctly. If not, East would be thrown-in together with an endplay. East must not duck the first heart played from dummy after declarer won with the ♠K or ♣Q in dummy.

Killing Defense 3: Again, even you have got in with the heart play, you have to establish spade tricks to avoid being thrown-in later. Otherwise, the contract would still be home with careful play.

Trick 1 ♠2* - ♠K - ♠5* - ♠4

Trick 2 ♥8 - ♥6 - ♥K* - ♥9

Trick 3 ♦2 - ♦7 - ♦2* - ♦6

* all plays are vital.

Note: A superb one for three play technique being applied by the defender.

It is not easy to perform this kind of defense at the table as a simple solution of attacking defense might solve the problem by taking the ♠A and switching it to ♥x. All you need is Qxx or even Jxx from your partner will do. Who can say this line of defense is wrong? What I can say is it's too optimistic!

Note: This is not an easy hand for declarer as well even though the defender might have made the wrong move by switching it to club instead of spade. One needs advance skills of declarer play in order to make the contract. Try it yourself as a declarer to exercise your brain.

Case Study 1: Trick 1 - as mentioned.

Trick 2 - as mentioned.

Trick 3 ♠8 - ♣2 - ♠9 - ♣A...

Plan your play.

Case Study 2: Trick 1 - as mentioned.

Trick 2 ♥8 - ♥6 - ♥2 - ♥Q...

What's next?

You may solve the hand as double dummy starting from here.

By the way, the only person who had made that intelligent lead was Miss Lam Ze Ying who was only a young little girl then. Fantastic! Particularly when I was the declarer after looking at the dummy hand. Keep it up.

Dear readers, would you be able to find this lead, or wouldn't you?

QUESTION for this issue

This hand appeared on 02-May-2004 at Bishan Club house during a Sunday game where most of the North-Souths were in a 3NT contract.

NORTH		
♠ K J x x		
♥ K Q 3		
♦ 10 x x		
♣ A x x		
WEST		EAST
♠ x x		♥ Q 9 x x
♥ A 9 5 4 2		♦ 10 6
♦ Q J 8 x		♣ 9 x x
♠ 8 x		♣ K Q J 10
	SOUTH	
	♠ A 10 x	
	♥ J 8 7	
	♦ A K x	
	♣ 9 x x x	

The lead was a ♠Q.

What do you think now? Would you rather be a declarer trying to make the contract or a defender to trying to defeat the contract?

Call-to-action: Please send your entries to quiz@bridgeleague.net by 14-May-2005 (Sat) !