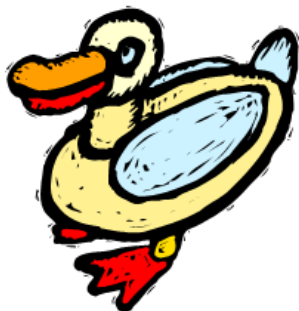


# Notrump and the Hold-up Play

## (Part II)



Last month we looked at hold-up plays from Declarer's perspective. This month we see how the same play works for defenders.

You are sitting West. Beginning with South, the opponents bid 1♦-1♠-1NT-3NT. Once again, you choose the ♥5 as the opening lead and Dummy comes down.

♠A J 6 3				
♥Q J 4				
♦10 8 6				
♣A Q 5				
♠9 2				
♥K 9 7 5 3				
♦7 5 3				
♣J 5 4				
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While Declarer studies Dummy and makes his plan, you do the same. Dummy has 14 HCPs (High Card Points), Declarer's bidding indicated he has 12-14 HCPs; you have a wallop 4 HCPs. That leaves your partner with 8-10 HCPs. Declarer calls for the ♥4, your wonderful partner plays the ♥A and Declarer plays the ♥6. Partner leads back the ♥8, Declarer plays the ♥10 and you DUCK.

What happens if you take the trick with your ♥K? You will next drive out Dummy's last heart winner, simultaneously eliminating partner's last heart. Your hearts are set up, but the chances of the ♣J being a successful entry to your good hearts are about as great as me winning Dancing with the Stars—zero. You must duck to keep communications open with your partner.

Partner will eventually take a trick and if she has another heart will lead it. You'll capture Dummy's last heart with your ♥K and cash two extra heart tricks, setting the contract. If partner doesn't have a winner, you weren't going to set the contract anyway. If partner doesn't have a third heart, Declarer does and you'll score your ♥K on the thirteenth trick.

♠A J 6 3						
♥Q J 4						
♦10 8 6						
♣A Q 5						
♠9 2		♠Q 10 8 5				
♥K 9 7 5 3		♥A 8 2				
♦7 5 3		♦A 9 2				
♣J 5 4		♣9 6 3				
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S		
N						
W E						
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		<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠K 7 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥10 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♦K Q J 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♣K 10 8 2</td></tr> </table>	♠K 7 4	♥10 6	♦K Q J 4	♣K 10 8 2
♠K 7 4						
♥10 6						
♦K Q J 4						
♣K 10 8 2						

On the next hand you and your partner are silent during the bidding. North opens 1♣, South bids 1NT and North closes the



Jim Jackson

bidding with 3NT. It worked so well the last time, you again try leading your ♥5. Dummy displays his hand and you start thinking.

		♠K 6			
		♥J 4 2			
		♦K J			
		♣A K Q 5 4 3			
♠J 9 2					
♥K 10 9 5 3					
♦A 7 3					
♣J 7					
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					

Before your analysis is complete, Declarer calls for the ♥2 from Dummy. Partner disappoints with ♥8 and Declarer wins the trick with the ♥Q.

Next, Declarer places the ♦4 on the table. Before you play to this trick you need to finish your analysis. What do you know?

Declarer has the ♥A in hand. If he started with the ♥A-Q doubleton, then you can take the diamond trick, lead a heart and when partner wins a trick, she can lead a heart back to your three good hearts. Your side wins five tricks for

