

How to play avoidance

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY

defense took two more heart tricks to set the contract.

This deal is an exercise in avoidance. To protect his J-9 of hearts, declarer must strive to keep East off lead until the contract is secure. Therefore, declarer should lead to the 10 of diamonds in dummy and come off with a low club. East will duck, and South wins the queen. Playing a second club would now be a mistake. Instead, declarer goes to dummy with the diamond king and plays a low spade. Once again, if East rises with the ace, declarer will have nine tricks. So East plays the nine and declarer wins the spade queen. Now he can switch back to clubs and guarantee making his contract.

And what if West could have won the ace of spades? He would have led back a spade, but declarer could not

risk putting in dummy's 10. He would win dummy's king and play a high club from dummy, once again ensuring his contract.

James Jacoby's books "Jacoby on Bridge" and "Jacoby on Card Games" (written with his father, the late Oswald Jacoby) are now available at bookstores. Both are published by Pharos Books. © 1989, NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

NORTH 7-26-89
 ♦ K 10 4 3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K 10 3
 ♣ K J 9 6 2

WEST
 ♦ 8 7 5
 ♥ 10 7 6 4 3
 ♦ 9 8 5 2
 ♣ 7

EAST
 ♦ A J 9
 ♥ K 8 5 2
 ♦ 7 6
 ♣ A 10 8 5

SOUTH
 ♦ Q 8 2
 ♥ A J 9
 ♦ A Q J 4
 ♣ Q 4 3

Vulnerable: North-South
 Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣ -	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 4

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Trick one was the heart four, queen and king, topped by declarer's ace. It seemed natural to now play a club. Declarer played low to dummy's jack; East took the ace and returned a heart. The nine lost to West's 10, and West cleared the heart suit. Now the queen of clubs disclosed the bad news. So South went to dummy with the king of diamonds to play a low spade. East rose immediately with the ace, and the

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