

## Defence 5 – Make Your Discards As Clear Cut As You Can

	♠ AK	
	♥ K93	
	♦ 9743	
	♣ 10654	
♠ 8732		♠ QJ10954
♥ AQ8		♥ 74
♦ J106		♦ A85
♣ AKQ		♣ 83
	♠ 6	
	♥ J10652	
	♦ KQ2	
	♣ J972	

4S by West. SA opening lead.

After winning the SA, North led the SK and South had a problem. South wants a diamond switch, but, playing low encourage, can't afford to throw the D2 without giving a diamond trick away.

South elected to discourage in hearts by throwing the H6. Unfortunately, North wasn't sure if the H6 was South's lowest card or not (declarer could hold the H52) and led a heart finessing himself. A diamond went away on the third round of clubs and 4S made, losing only the top 2 spades and a diamond.

South should have thrown the HJ to clearly and unmistakably warn partner not to lead a heart. As dummy has only 2 hearts and can ruff any remaining heart losers, the throw of the HJ won't give away a trick.

North is desperate for a signal on this hand. If South has the HA, hearts might have to be led now to avoid them being thrown away on clubs.