

## **SUMMARY OF IMPROVING DEFENSIVE SIGNALS**

1. If you lead A from AK in a suit contract and find a protected Q in dummy (ie a Q that won't fall under the AK), partner should give you COUNT to tell you if you can cash the K without declarer ruffing.
2. If you lead A from AK in a suit contract and find a doubleton in dummy, partner should only encourage with a doubleton themselves (ie they can overruff dummy). EXCEPTION: dummy has the long trumps not declarer (eg due to a transfer) and it makes sense to make dummy ruff.
3. If you lead A from AK in a suit contract and find a singleton in dummy, partner should give you a SUIT PREFERENCE signal. EXCEPTION: dummy has the long trumps.
4. If you lead A from AK in a suit contract and partner plays the Q or J, this shows either a singleton or the card immediately below the one played.
5. If your first discard in a suit contract is discouraging, a later encouraging discard is weaker than if you had encouraged initially.
6. If you lead A from AK in no trumps, a reasonable system is that it asks partner to encourage with the Q but otherwise discourage.
7. If you lead a K in no trumps, a reasonable system is that it asks partner to encourage with the A or J, otherwise discourage, or unblock the Q if they hold it.
8. In no trumps, use of REVERSE SMITH'S ECHO.
9. In no trumps on the opening lead, if dummy wins with the ace or king given normal attitude. If dummy wins with a lower card (showing you have little in the suit) give partner count.