

DEFENCE 2 – WHAT CAN'T PARTNER DO FROM THEIR SIDE OF THE TABLE?

Dealer: N

Vul: ALL

	♠ Q97 ♥ K642 ♦ Q1043 ♣ A6	
♠ AKJ1052 ♥ A9 ♦ J5 ♣ Q54	♠ 843 ♥ 108753 ♦ K87 ♣ 108	♠ 6 ♥ QJ ♦ A962 ♣ KJ9732

N	E	S	W
P	1C	P	1S
X (1)	2C	P	4S
P	P	P	

(1) 4+/4+ in the 2 unbid suits

West's 4S bid is reasonable. To know whether you can insist on your suit as trumps, you use "**the rule of 10**". You add the number of honours you have in the suit (10 counts as an honour if you have the Q or a higher honour as well) to the length of the suit. If you get 10 or more, you can insist on your suit. Four spade honours plus the 6 card suit gives 10 and West can insist on the spade suit.

North led the D3, declarer rose with the DA (South playing a low encourage D7) and declarer finessed the SJ to North's SQ. North now led the D4 to South's DK and the critical moment of the defence had arrived.

There are only 2 main types of bridge defence:

- (1) "Get busy defence" where you have to grab your tricks now before declarer can get them away and you possibly have to take risky actions in that process, and
- (2) "Sit still defence" where you sit back and wait for your tricks to (inevitably) come to you. You avoid risky actions and try to wriggle off lead without finessing yourself or partner.

A long suit in dummy is a flashing red light that you might have to get busy before your defensive tricks go away. Sometimes you can cut the suit off in dummy or you have winners in the suit over dummy such that the suit will never set up. In these circumstances, you might be able to do "sit still defence". Otherwise, get busy!

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	♠ 843	
	♥ 108753	
	♦ K87	
	♣ 108	

(Hand repeated for convenience)

Here, South could see the long club suit in dummy and the fact that if a finesse were needed, it's going to work. There didn't seem to be a lot of entries outside the clubs, but declarer's immediate attack on trumps to try to remove them was an ominous sign suggesting the clubs were running or ready to run.

South knows from the bidding that North has at least 4 diamonds and thus declarer is now out of diamonds and there are no more diamond tricks to be had. South should immediately switch to a heart.

The other consideration in defence is to ask yourself what partner can't do from their side of the table. As you can see, with the HK, North can't lead the suit without finessing themselves. South must realise that the attack on hearts must come from their side of the table.

Note that if South tries to passively defend by playing a third round of diamonds, declarer ruffs, draws trumps and knocks out the CA. North can't lead hearts from their side of the table without giving a trick away and declarer will get their heart loser away on the clubs.

By switching to a heart, North will now get the HK and CA to go with the SQ and DK to put the 4S contract down.