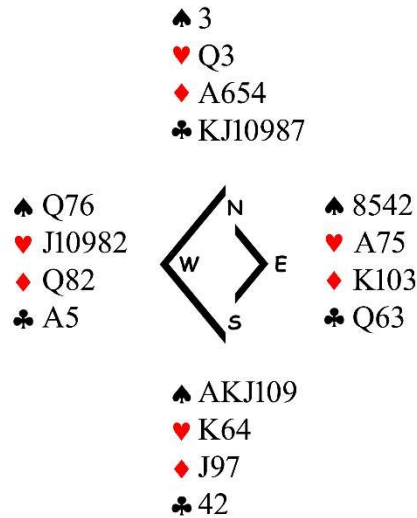


305. Killing Dummy's Entry

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E	S	W	N
	1♠	P	2♣
P	2NT	All Pass	

--None Vulnerable--

The bidding:

We saw in last week's column that a jump to the three-level is invitational with the same hands as above. In Standard American, North would open One Spade and South would reply Two Clubs showing 10 or more points and promising a rebid. North would rebid 2NT and South would pass seeing no prospects for game. When partner limits his hand with 2NT, South is no longer obligated to make a rebid.

Opening Lead:

Heart Jack. Top of a touching sequence is a natural lead. If only the top two cards were touching, fourth best would be the lead.

The Play:

Declarer tries the Heart Queen. If he ducks the Queen will now be a loser for sure. Here the Heart Queen could win if West made an interior sequence lead.

The heart Queen loses and declarer must win the third round of Hearts with the King. He is trying to break communication in the Heart suit for the opponents.

If the Heart Queen had won, declarer would take the Spade finesse, because the Heart King is safe as long as West can be kept on lead. If West switches to a Club, declarer would play the King and exit the Club Jack hoping East covers.

However, declarer has to attack clubs. East wins the Queen and puts the Diamond King on the table. He does not have the Diamond Queen but he must attack dummy's entries to the Club suit. Declarer ducks and East must switch to a small Spade. Declarer wins the Spade Ace and plays his last Club. Setting up Spades with no entry would be pointless as would cashing the Spade King be. West wins the Club Ace and cashes his hearts.

Result:

Declarer will lose no Spades, four Hearts, one Diamond and Two Clubs for down two. Last week, Three Clubs was down one, a better contract.