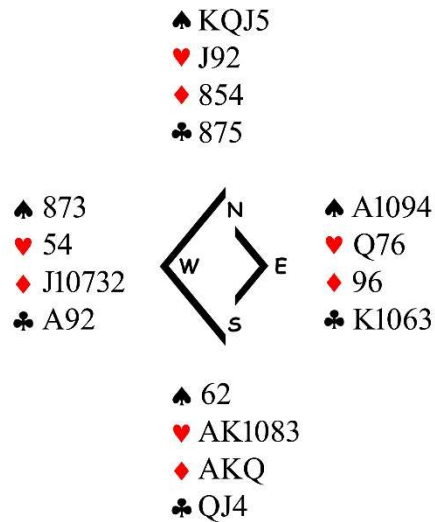


# 311 . Defense is Hard

Published on page 4 of the Trail Times, Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016



E	S	W	N
	1 ♥	P	2 ♥
P	4 ♥	All Pass	

--None Vulnerable--

Here is another hand that occurred in the team event of the Calgary Fall Sectional.

## The bidding:

South opens One Heart and North responds with a simple raise. He does not show his four-card Spade suit, because the weaker one is, the faster one shows support for partner if one has it. All South needs is six points from partner so he jumps to game.

## The Play:

West leads the Diamond Jack which declarer wins and then plays a Spade. West plays his smallest Spade showing an odd number of Spades. When partner first leads a suit, one gives an attitude signal most of the time, but when declarer first

leads a suit, one gives count.

Because West has an odd number of Spades, declarer must have two so East must duck the Spade once. He must resist the temptation to win the first trick with the Spade Ace and try to grab his Club winners before they go away on the Spades. This just gives declarer the transportation he needs to get one Club trick and to finesse the Heart Queen.

Therefore, East ducks once and dummy is dead. Declarer has to take the Heart finesse the only time he can get to dummy and fortunately it works.

However, because the defenders can exit Diamonds, declarer must play Clubs from his hand and will lose three Club tricks and the Spade Ace for down one for -50.

**The result:**

If East ducks one Spade, the board will be a push (tie), and if he takes the first Spade with the Ace, he will lose 10 imps.

This is a good example of how defenders must keep a low defensive footprint and just stick to Diamonds, the initially led suit. When the defenders break open a new suit for declarer, it often saves declarer a trick.