

# Twoonie Talk #14

## Attack the Entry Not the Long Suit

By Warren Watson

KJBC and KDBC

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In the Cranbrook Sectional Sunday Swiss teams, partner leads K♦ against 4♥.

Dummy has: ♠93 ♥1052 ♦54 ♣AQJ1098

You are playing standard signals.

Hints:

- Try to signal with spot cards, the Two through the Nine.
- Typically, in standard signals, 7 to 9 are high, 6 is ambivalent, and 2 to 5 are low.
- However, the size is relative (to what cards are available) not absolute.
  - If you discard the 8 then the 9, the 8 was intended as low.
  - If you discard the 3 then the 2, the 3 was intended as high.
- The signal of an honour shows either:
  - A desperate request for a suit switch,
  - Or the denial of the possession of a higher honour and usually the possession of the honour below.

A. ♠QJ109 ♥42 ♦AJ1092 ♣54

What do you play to partner's ♦ King?

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

B. ♠QJ10932 ♥42 ♦AJ1092 ♣---

What do you play to partner's ♦ King?

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

C. ♠QJ102 ♥42 ♦AJ1092 ♣K2

What do you play to partner's ♦ King?

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

D. ♠--- ♥42 ♦AJ1092 ♣QJ10932

What do you play to partner's ♦ King?

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

# Twoonie Talk #14-Answers

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A.     ♠QJ109    ♥42    ♦AJ1092    ♣54

What do you play to partner's ♦ King? The 9

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

Overtake partner's second diamond and put the ♠Queen on the table. One has to cash out because you can tell the club finesse is working if there is one.

B.     ♠QJ10932    ♥42    ♦AJ1092    ♣---

What do you play to partner's ♦ King? The 2

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

You want partner to stop playing Diamonds and make a ♣ shift. You ruff then play the ♦9 which partner wins with the Queen and gives you another ♣ ruff. You then put the ♠Queen on the table.

C.     ♠QJ102    ♥42    ♦AJ1092    ♣K2

What do you play to partner's ♦ King? The ♦9

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

Cash two diamonds winning the second diamond with the Ace and attack spades. If you likely get in with the ♣ King, you will attack spades again. The defense should not be worried about getting the ♣ King. They will likely get it when declarer tries to set up clubs for discards. You certainly do not want to give declarer a head start in setting up clubs. You must make good attempts to get winners in ♦'s and ♠'s.

Trump suit winners and winners in a suit that declarer wants to set up will come to you eventually without your active pursuit of these tricks. If you actively pursue these tricks you may lose winners that you deserve.

D.     The dummy shown does not go with this question but the defense is still very relevant.

♠---    ♥42    ♦AJ1092    ♣QJ10932

What do you play to partner's ♦ King? Jack♦ asking for a ♠ switch

Describe the defensive steps that immediately come to mind.

Ruff a spade and return a diamond to partner's queen for another ruff then put the ♣Queen on the table.

The actual boards at the tournament were as follows:

4♥ made for -620

West Dealer

East West Vulnerable

♠542  
♥KJ7  
♦KQ2  
♣7632

♠AKQJ  
♥AQ9864  
♦63  
♣K

♠10876  
♥3  
♦AJ10972  
♣54

N	E	S	W
P		P	1♥
P	2♥	P	4♥

All Pass

Should I overtake the diamond King and attack trump so declarer will not get short hand ruffs? No, the long ♣ suit in dummy is a huge source of tricks and discards. Not only that, the ♣King is either with declarer or in the pocket.

It is hard to stop short hand ruffs unless the opening lead is a trump but with a long suit in dummy, that is not the correct defense. Besides, to stop short-hand ruffs, the defense must lead trump three times.

One never makes a trump opening lead that loses a trump trick. Qxx is a common example of a trump holding not to lead from. KJx is also certainly one.

Best Defense:

Cash out two diamonds and check out the ♠ suit with a lead from South.

North knows he has the diamond trick and two Hearts. He needs to cash a second diamond and the contract never makes.

North knows that the spade suit is unlikely a source of defensive tricks unless partner has the Ace or KingQueen. Solitary honours could likely be in the pocket because he has none.

### **Special Note**

When declarer has a long suit to pitch losers, he is not interested in short hand ruffs. In this example trump has to be the opening lead in order to stop declarer getting a short hand ruff (there is none since diamonds are 2-2) so it is pointless trying that defense if the opening lead was not a trump. As it turns out, the third trump may be left by declarer as an entry to the club suit but since he has only two diamonds in his hand and dummy, the dummy has no side entries. He does not need it anyways. So the best defense is to grab the defensive winners before declarer has a chance to pitch losers on the club suit in which the club finesse is working if there is one. Defense must cash two diamonds and switch to a spade from the South hand. Defense is not set by rules. Rules are a guideline. Defense is set by how the players read the situation.