

Twoonie Talk #15

Attack the Entry Not the Long Suit

By Warren Watson

KJBC and KDBC

Last Revised May 9th, 2015

In 3NT Dummy has:

♠93 ♥A32 ♦54 ♣KQJ1098

Partner leads 4♠ and you have:

♠AJ5 ♥K54 ♦K10985 ♣72

What do you play at trick one?

If you win the ♠Ace what do you play at trick two?

If you win the ♠Ace and lead the ♦10, what does declarer do with AQJx of Diamonds?

Declarer gets the lead and plays clubs. How do you play your clubs?

Twoonie Talk #15-Answers

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The hands are:

	West Dealer	East West Vulnerable
♠	10742	
♥	9632	
♦	62	
♣	A64	
♠	KQ98	63
♥	QJ10	A87
♦	AQJ7	54
♣	53	KQJ1098
♠	AJ5	
♥	K54	
♦	K10983	
♣	72	

In 3NT Dummy has:

♠93 ♥A32 ♦54 ♣KQJ1098

Partner leads 4♠ and you have:

♠AJ5 ♥K54 ♦K10985 ♣72

What do you play at trick one?

♠Ace

If you win the ♠Ace what do you play at trick two? ♥King, otherwise declarer will simply win the ♥Queen (if you attack the ♥Ace with a small one) and then declarer will attack Clubs with the ♥Ace remaining as an entry.

If you win the ♠Ace and lead the ♦10, what does declarer do with AQJx of Diamonds?

Wins the ♦Ace and puts a club on the table. He also cannot believe the gift and he certainly would not chance giving it back by taking the diamond finesse even though it works here.

Declarer gets the lead and plays clubs. How do you play your clubs? High-low to tell partner you have a doubleton. With Ace third, partner will hold up only once. If he holds up twice, declarer gets an undeserved trick and may make the contract.

If I had ample (sure or quick) entries in West's hand, I would lead up to the clubs twice so North cannot see if South has a second card or just a stiff. But alas there is not ample entries and North will see South's second ♣ and win the second club. If North played a high club on the first club trick I would happily continue clubs from dummy.