

TEST YOUR PLAY AS DECLARER

V O L U M E 2



Paul Lukacs & Jeff Rubens

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PROBLEM 1

IMP scoring
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K J 9 6
♥ A K J
♦ A Q 3 2
♣ Q 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 8 5 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ 9 4
♣ A K

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	All Pass

West leads a trump. East follows.
Plan the play.

SOLUTION 1

NORTH

♠ K J 9 6
♥ A K J
♦ A Q 3 2
♣ Q 4

WEST

♠ 4 3
♥ 10 4 3
♦ 8 7 5
♣ J 9 6 3 2

EAST

♠ 7
♥ Q 9 7 5
♦ K J 10 6
♣ 10 8 7 5

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 5 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ 9 4
♣ A K

There are three reasonable possibilities: (A) strip the blacks, ace-king-jack of hearts; (B) take finesses in hearts and diamonds; (C) strip the blacks and one heart, try to run the nine of diamonds. If the nine of diamonds is covered by a middle honor, go up with the ace, return to the South hand, and lead a diamond to the queen.

Any of these plays works if either of two specific cards is favorably located. (A) and (B) also succeed against the queen of hearts "offside" singleton or doubleton. (C), however, gains in additional cases: In addition to the singleton queen of hearts offside there are the singleton or doubleton king of diamonds offside, and the jack-ten of diamonds with East. So plan (C) is clearly best, and in fact is a better-than-90% chance.

PROBLEM 2

IMP scoring
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K J 9 6
♥ A K Q 5 4
♦ 6 4
♣ 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 8 5 3
♥ 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ A 9 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads a trump. East follows.
Plan the play.

SOLUTION 2

NORTH

♠ K J 9 6
♥ A K Q 5 4
♦ 6 4
♣ 5 2

WEST

♠ 7
♥ J 9 8 7 6
♦ J 9 7
♣ K J 7 6

EAST

♠ 4 2
♥ 10 2
♦ A Q 10 5 2
♣ Q 10 8 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 5 3
♥ 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ A 9 4

South's problem is one of information. If he knew hearts were 4-3 (about a 63% chance) he would plan to discard three diamonds on dummy's hearts, then ruff a club in dummy. But if he knew that hearts would *not* break, he would discard two clubs on the hearts, hope for the diamond finesse to work, and eventually ruff a diamond in dummy.

There is no way South can find out for sure, but he can arrange his play so that he finds out part of the time. South should win the lead, cash the heart ace, and ruff a heart. Now a trump to dummy and a high heart. If East follows, declarer should discard diamonds, hoping for a favorable heart split — more likely than the diamond finesse.

The advantage is that East may be the one short in hearts. East shows out before South discards, and South knows to discard clubs.