

# Charge Account

By DAVID WEISS

|         |                 |           |                           |      |
|---------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|------|
|         |                 | North     | Neither vulnerable, IMPs: |      |
|         |                 | S-1065    |                           |      |
|         |                 | H-Q       |                           |      |
| West    | D-AKQJ          | East      | South                     | West |
| S-K9743 | C-QJ864         | S-AJ2     | 3H                        | Pass |
| H-KJ10  | <del>H-86</del> | H-86      | North                     | East |
| D-963   | South           | D-8752    | Pass                      | Pass |
| C-92    | S-Q8            | C-A753    | Trick 1: S4, 5, A, Q.     |      |
|         |                 | H-A975432 | Trick 2: SJ, 8, 3, 6.     |      |
|         |                 | D-104     | Trick 3: C3, 10, 9, 4.    |      |
|         |                 | C-K10     |                           |      |

Declarer now ran three rounds of diamonds, pitching the club king. Then ace and another heart saw him home. Who gets the charge?

**STEVE EVANS:** "Although East's underlead of the club ace looked stupid, it would have been the only winning defense had South's king been in hearts instead of clubs. The real villain is West. When South discards the spade queen at trick 1, West knows that he didn't start with Qxx. To prevent partner from going wrong, West should overtake the spade jack and lead a club so that East will be forced to take his ace. I'm not sure that many of us would find that defense at the table, however."

**MARSHALL MILES:** "I think the defenders were equally at fault. Since West has two trump tricks, he probably should have overtaken the jack of spades to lead the nine of clubs. This would force Est to take his ace. On the other hand, if West had the hand East was playing him for (K9743; Jxx, xxx, Kx), West would have overtaken the jack of spades to return the king of clubs.

"East should figure: If West has the hand I have in mind, it will be easy for him to see what to do. With all other hands, partner may not even think about my maing this spactacular play. So, I shouldn't make it."

Marshall's reasoning is interesting but, I believe, somewhat convoluted. On any of the relevant hands, West should have overtaken the spade jack. All East can conclude is that his partner has erred. He must guess whether to play for a promotion or for two natural trump tricks in the West hand. I am not inclined to criticize his guess. West gets the charge since he knew the hand could be defeated if his partner could be induced to win his ace.