

DEAL 1
 Game All. Dealer South.

♠ Q875
♥ QJ762
♦ 8
♣ J105

N E
♥ KJ1062
8
♦ 9654
♣ KQ8

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Partner leads the ♠A, which is your conventional lead from suits headed by the ace-king. What is your plan in defence?

DEAL 2
 Game All. Dealer South.

♠ Q87
♥ A1076
♦ J8653
♣ 9

N E
♠ A10964
—
♥ —
♦ Q102
♣ K10653

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Dble(i)	1♠	1NT(ii)

All Pass
(i) shows diamonds
(ii) 12-14

Partner leads the ♠5 against South's 1NT? What is your best defensive strategy?

DEAL 3
 East/West Game. Dealer North.

♠ Q1084
♥ K864
♦ AK6
♣ 104

N E
♥ J9753
A5
♦ Q54
♣ Q72

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♠A, which again could be from ace-king. South follows with the deuce. The ♣9 comes next, and it rides to the jack.

Now declarer passes the ♥J toward you as partner contributes the three. What is your plan?

SECURING ONE'S ENTITLEMENT

by DAVID J. WEISS

Pairs defence is the most excruciating part of the game, because, unless one is a mad doubler, the trick target is unclear. In this quiz you are stuck with the actual bidding, but at least you don't have to pay table money to be a tortured East.

First try your hand at these defensive problems and then turn to page 44 for the solutions.

DEAL 4
 Game All. Dealer North.

♠ AQJ65
♥ 542
♦ A72
♣ K6

N E
♥ 107
A3
♦ 10963
♣ A8754

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♥7. What is your plan?

DEAL 5
 Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 1082
♥ A103
♦ 87
♣ AKJ76

N E
♠ Q4
♥ Q874
♦ KJ6542
♣ 9

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥(i)	1♠
2♥	3♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

(i) Don't get apoplectic — this is a defence quiz

Partner leads the ♥2 (promising an odd number). What is your plan?

DEAL 6
 Love All. Dealer West.

♠ Q2
♥ KJ1052
♦ KQ10
♣ A74

N E
♠ AK7
♥ 43
♦ J972
♣ KQJ8

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

After a rather mild pairs auction, partner leads the ♠J. What is your plan?

DEAL 7
 Love All. Dealer West.

♠ 94
♥ Q4
♦ J108632
♣ KQ9

N E
♠ Q872
♥ K1052
♦ 5
♣ J652

West	North	East	South
2♥(i)	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
(i) 5-6♥ headed by honour, 2-3♠, 8-11 HCP			

Partner's leads the ♥6, which, if it is his lowest, denies an odd number of hearts. Since he would lead the highest card he could spare if holding an even number of hearts, you can infer a five-card suit. Declarer calls for the queen but your king holds the trick, declarer playing the nine. What is your plan?

SOLUTIONS

to Securing One's Entitlement

DEAL 1
If you discouraged in spades and planned to play the ♣K if partner found that switch, you get a shared top for setting the contract two. Anything else leads to down one, which netted us 42% on the board. The reason for the falsecard is that declarer will not believe you asked for a shift with a suit headed by the queen, so he will duck when you cover the jack with the queen. Partner may scratch his head when he gets back in, but no play other than a club continuation will have any appeal at all.

♠ Q875			
♥ QJ762			
♦ 8			
♣ J105			
♠ A3	N	♠ KJ1062	
♥ 94	W	♥ 8	
♦ AQ732	E	♦ 9654	
♣ 9742	S	♣ KQ8	
♠ 94			
♥ AK1053			
♦ KJ10			
♣ A63			

DEAL 2
The winning play is to win the ♠A and shift to the ♣10. If you do that, you will pick up the club suit and your partner will, as mine did, find the brilliant stroke of the ♦K after winning the third club. This brought us +200 and an 84% score. Down two can be achieved if you duck the spade as well, but the defence will be complex and partner will have opportunities to mess it up.

♠ Q87			
♥ A1076			
♦ J8653			
♣ 9			
♠ 53	N	♠ A10964	
♥ QJ952	W	♥ —	
♦ K74	E	♦ Q102	
♣ AJ8	S	♣ K10653	
♠ KJ2			
♥ K843			
♦ A9			
♣ Q742			

DEAL 3
The winning play was to grab the heart and return a spade. This produced a 68% score, while allowing declarer to make five brought in less than 20%. By taking the heart before South knows that trumps are breaking, you allow an elegant loser on loser play which guarantees the contract. Little

does South realise that any perilous play chosen will succeed in bringing home 11 tricks.

♠ AK6			
♥ 973			
♦ 932			
♣ 9865			
♠ 2	N	♠ J9753	
♥ QJ102	W	♥ A5	
♦ J1087	E	♦ Q54	
♣ AKJ3	S	♣ Q72	

DEAL 4
To get a reasonable score, you must take the ♥A, cash the ♣A, and then return a heart. We got 41% for getting two-thirds of our allotment on this difficult deal. If you simply return the heart, partner will go passive, probably by trying a spade. You are the one who knows that the defence probably has no diamond or spade trick, so it is worth mentioning that if partner tried the ♣10 as his opening shot, you would have had to find essentially the same cash-out to hold declarer to 10 tricks?

♠ AQJ65			
♥ 542			
♦ A72			
♣ K6			
♠ 9842	N	♠ 107	
♥ K1087	W	♥ A3	
♦ 8	E	♦ 10963	
♣ 10932	S	♣ A8754	
♠ K3			
♥ QJ96			
♦ KQJ54			
♣ QJ			

DEAL 5
Did you work out that playing the ♥7 cannot lose a trick within the heart suit, and may save one? Too bad if you did. Declarer will easily take two hearts, four spades, and three clubs. Come to think of it, you can foresee this success coming. To get a 71% score, you must win the ♥Q and try to kill one of South's winners by ruffing it. The club return at Trick 2 leaves declarer with no way to avoid a one trick set.

♠ 1082			
♥ A103			
♦ 87			
♣ AKJ76			
♠ K75	N	♠ Q4	
♥ K62	W	♥ Q874	
♦ A9	E	♦ KJ6542	
♣ Q10842	S	♣ 9	
♠ AJ963			
♥ J95			
♦ Q103			
♣ 53			

DEAL 6
Your partner's having gone quietly suggests only a four-card spade suit. The winning defence is to overtake, shifting to high clubs. You will get four spade tricks, two clubs, and partner's red ace for down two and a 60% score on the board. (Maybe you should have doubled). If you allow partner to hold the trick, he will probably do something dumb. He could try to give you a ruff, or he might think that tapping dummy will protect your trump tricks. Who knows how low a score partner's creativity could bring about?

♠ Q2			
♥ KJ1052			
♦ KQ10			
♣ A74			
♠ J1093	N	♠ AK7	
♥ AQ976	W	♥ 43	
♦ 653	E	♦ J972	
♣ 3	S	♣ KQJ8	
♠ 8654			
♥ 8			
♦ A84			
♣ 109652			

DEAL 7
I'm not sure if there is a right answer to this problem, but I can assure there is a wrong one. If you shift to your diamond, declarer makes his contract and you get an 8% score. What you need to do is to induce South to pull three rounds of trumps while you retain the ♥10. This will allow you to regain the lead so you can cash your high trump. Since partner has diamonds doubly stopped, he can score a long heart and defeat the contract. As your side's 3♥ contract is slated to fail by a trick, defeating 2♠ brings in an enormous reward. Probably the best return is a club, not so much because it is passive as because you want South to fear a club ruff in someone's hand. Play the spot you would lead from a five-card holding. If all goes well, the club will be won in dummy for a spade finesse. Declarer can make the contract by going after diamonds (or by returning a heart, or by playing only two rounds of spades), but he doesn't know his trick target or where your side's queens are. A diamond return by you resolves all such difficulties.

♠ 94			
♥ Q4			
♦ J108632			
♣ KQ9			
♠ 106	N	♠ Q872	
♥ AJ876	W	♥ K1052	
♦ AQ9	E	♦ 5	
♣ 843	S	♣ J652	
♠ AKJ53			
♥ 93			
♦ K74			
♣ A107			