

A Quiz for Generals by David Weiss

In these four problems, all you have to do is set the defensive strategy in motion with your first bold strokes. After that, the lesser luminaries can mop up.

Problem 1. E/W Game. Pairs.

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥(i)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(i) Weak

You, West, hold:

♠ A43
♥ KQJ7
♦ 1083
♣ 965

Problem 2. N/S Game. IMPs.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♥(i)	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

(i) 5-6♥, 2-3♠, 8-11 HCPs

You, West, hold:

♠ J9752
♥ Q8
♦ QJ8654
♣ -

What do you lead?

Next you have the opportunity to demonstrate your ability to handle the global nature of a general's responsibility by moving to the East chair.

Problem 3. E/W Game. IMPs.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

♠ J104
♥ KQ2
♦ 108
♣ AQJ98



♠ A9763
♥ AJ86
♦ J5
♣ 42

After your dubious overcall (rank does have its privileges), partner dutifully leads the queen of spades.

How do you defend?

Problem 4. Game All. IMPs.

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

♠ Q873
♥ 10
♦ AQ1072
♣ K83



♠ 5
♥ KQ965
♦ J9
♣ A7652

This time partner disobeys orders by leading the jack of clubs.

How do you defend?

Solutions on page 31.

Solutions to the Quiz on page 19 by David Weiss

Problem 1.

♠ J102
♥ A109843
♦ Q2
♣ K3

♠ A43
♥ KQJ7
♦ 1083
♣ 965

♠ 8
♥ 2
♦ KJ97654
♣ QJ72

♠ KQ9765
♥ 65
♦ A
♣ A1084

The winning defence is to lead the ace and a second spade. If you try any other approach, including leading a low spade instead of the ace, declarer can ruff two clubs in dummy and make five. The killing stroke forces declarer to adopt the alternative line of trying to establish hearts. Because you know that the attempt is doomed, the trump attack stands out.

Be sure to split when declarer pushes a heart towards the board at trick three. Then you can play a third trump, and South can do no better than concede a heart to you to secure ten tricks.

Problem 2.

♠ Q84
♥ 632
♦ A1073
♣ KJ8

♠ J9752
♥ Q8
♦ QJ8654
♣ -

♠ K103
♥ AJ754
♦ K92
♣ 42

♠ A6
♥ K109
♦ -
♣ AQ1097653

You didn't lead the queen of hearts, did you? Perhaps the deal's appearance in a quiz told you not to make that 'obvious'

lead, the only card in your hand to allow the contract to come home. I want to convince you it is a poor lead, not just an unlucky one.

The primary reason for leading a doubleton honour is to pierce dummy's vulnerable holding. Is it plausible that North has raised to slam with the king of hearts? You know the opponents have reached a slam with no more than 26 HCP, and your hand also tells you that no long suit is going to appear in dummy. Lead something safe. A trump would be good if you could find one; failing that, the least dangerous lead is your low heart. This may confuse partner temporarily, but at least avoids the Hobson's choice of winning the first trick and allowing South two heart winners or ducking and suffering the indignity of a squeeze endplay.

Problem 3.

♠ J104
♥ KQ2
♦ 108
♣ AQJ98

♠ Q8
♥ 1074
♦ A6432
♣ 1075

♠ A9763
♥ AJ86
♦ J5
♣ 42

♠ K52
♥ 953
♦ KQ97
♣ K63

When this deal occurred in a world championship, East compounded his bidding felony (passing would be likely to lead to a no trump contract played by North, and the routine spade lead would probably generate six tricks for the defence) by ducking the queen of spades. I guess he was waiting for partner to get in early so that spades could be established while the ace of hearts was still an entry.

Unfortunately, the play went just as East had hoped. South won the king of spades, crossed in clubs, and led the ten of diamonds. There was no way to prevent the offense from taking five club tricks, three diamonds and two spades.

It is unrealistic for East to hope that partner has more than one high card other than the queen of spades. Even if West is clever enough to hold the nine of diamonds, South could still make the contract by generating a heart trick early (five clubs, one heart, one diamond and two spades). It is more plausible to hope to defeat the contract within the heart suit. If East grabs the opening lead and shifts to a low heart, his partner holding the ten of hearts along with the ace of diamonds will suffice.

Problem 4.

♠ Q873
♥ 10
♦ AQ1072
♣ K83

♠ A62
♥ A432
♦ K543
♣ J9

♠ 5
♥ KQ965
♦ J9
♣ A7652

♠ KJ1094
♥ J87
♦ 86
♣ Q104

The correct defence is to win the ace of clubs (suppress a sneer when South follows with the queen) and continue with the seven of clubs. Partner is likely to have a trump trick and the ace of hearts. Your other trick can only be a club ruff, so go after it. Maybe partner has a singleton and you can get two ruffs.

This deal occurred in an Olympiad Final, and East won the first trick to play the king and a second heart. This incomprehensible attempt to shorten dummy did not trouble South, so the phantom save proved to be a make.

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