

1) The best defence is as here :-

- 1) 5sp lead won by declarer * [actually there is a variation which I will also print in a minute]
- 2) diamond lead won by us
- 3) **Q sp** led (Zena please note -Q not a small spade) - now declarer can hold off to no avail or win -lets say they win
- 4) diamond lead won by us -and now we play the spades.

The point was that when we got the lead and had QJ84 sp left we have to lead the Q and not the 4.

And so declarer can't make the contract.

**[the variation is that declarer holds off the spade lead at trick 1. ie with AK9 she waits when not so weak (as L.G. says it).*

For the leader on this hand that is no problem and they continue with spades and again with QJ84 left the Q is the right card.]

Should declarer hold off ? The chief exponent of this line is S.S. and she uses it to good effect -the thinking is that as the lead has to be lost twice and a hold up in spades has to be done at sometime then it is better to do it at the start.

And I cant argue much with that ; h-o-w-e-v-e-r today we saw one declarer make the contract after they won at trick 1 with the King. The leader got on lead and led another spade BUT they led a small spade and declarer managed to win with their 9 ! The A+K+9 does make me want to win at trick 1 in case there are accidents but ducking at trick 1 is undoubtably the percentage line .

2)) The best defence is as here :-

- 1) 5sp lead won by declarer with the 10
- 2) diamond lead won by us
- 3) switch to a heart NB **NOT** another spade and **NOT** a club
NB when u switch away from your best suit like here it is usually right to lead a top of nothing suit. Dummy wins.
- 4) Dummy leads a diamond won by our partner . who
- 5) switches back to spades.

Well the stage is set for declarer to go down. They have only 8 tricks [2 x spades + 2 x diamonds + 1 x club + 3 hearts].

We will have to keep our head when the diamonds are led (making 3 discards) and if the declarer is up to reading the end position they could execute an elimination and endplay.(Dont worry it wont happen). 99.9% of declarers would take a club finesse and go 2 off.

3) The best defence is as here :-

- 1) 5sp lead won by partner with the K
- 2) small spade lead by partner which we DON'T WIN (we allow dummy to win)

actually declarer's goose is now cooked and although they will cross to hand to take a heart finesse , partner will get in and return a spade and the contract goes light.

- 3) 5clubs to the Q
- 4) 10 hearts for a finesse which partner wins
- 5) partner leads a spade

So if the defenders remained "in touch" (kept communication in spades) then the contract goes off. Any defender that took their Ace sp at trick 2 allows the contract to make.

4) i) 2NT negative ii) 3D positive iii) 4H (semi positive) iv) 3H (positive)

5) poor.
oh you want to know what they should have bid ? ok

a) 2H b) 2C

6) well that should have been the K Hrts lead.
(some copies of this homework printed it as K diamonds lead)
(Funnily enough whenever I set this problem or type of problem I make a typo error . Why is that I wonder).
So apologies.

Win the K hrts.
Draw the opponents trumps.
Play all the diamonds.
Lead the J hrts. (which loses ...to the leader who led the KING Hrts). They will now have to lead a club.

All of which is expert stuff and if you missed that line and simply led a club at trick two (for a finesse of the Q clubs) well thats not so bad at all.

The expert line is called " an elimination and endplay with a throw in ".