

Defending at duplicate -- a big subject in itself but here are a few pointers below. Many contracts of the "freely bid variety" (ie not pushed into by opponents) are going to make at duplicate. How many ? 70% ? 75% ? probably more. It follows that most of the time defenders would be wasting their time if they try to beat contracts. (They aint gonna !).In fact defenders do better to try to prevent declarers making overtricks. So defensive approaches honed at the rubber bridge table may be best left just there , at rubber bridge.

e.g on lead against 3NT you hold J102 ----Q762 -----K432 --97

The best chance to beat the 3NT contract is to try the 2 diamonds (or perhaps the 2 hearts); if partner has high honors in the led suit it may be possible for the defenders to gather 5 tricks and beat the contract. Definitely what should be tried at rubber. In duplicate ? well.. the lead *could* still work BUT the lead that will probably not help the declarer to overtricks is a lead like the J sp or even the 9 clubs. Heretical ideas but if you believe that nothing will prevent the opponents making their contract (perhaps their bidding has suggested a superfluity of points) then making passive leads in suits with no risk to the leader can at least stop the overtricks.

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