

KRZYSZTOF
MARTENS

TIGER
&
FLY

Garsu Pasaulis
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The defenders will play:

- a) **fourth best**,
- b) **high** from the doubleton,
- c) **second best** from three and more small cards.
- d) upside down count (hi-lo = odd)

Part 1

THE TIGER

INTRODUCTION – ABOUT THE TIGER

Penetrating Eyes

Two protruding eyes with round pupils give tigers a wide field of vision. Tigers also have excellent night vision due to a layer of reflective cells behind the retina called the tapetum lucidum. At night, depending on the tiger's position relative to the source of light, the colour of light reflected in his eyes changes from orange and red (if facing the light) to blue and green (if the light is coming from the side). The extraordinary colour of his iris was an inspiration to call one of the glowing golden and brown varieties of quartz "Tiger's Eye."

Powerful Fangs

Tigers have strong jaws and teeth characteristic of a large carnivore: four sharp fangs 7.5 centimetres long. The tiger closes its jaws upon its victim's throat, suffocating and killing it in no time. Then the animal tears its victim apart.

Sharp Claws

Tiger's claws are longer than those of any other cat. Sinews and ligaments allow tigers to retract their claws in the same manner as domestic cats, helping keep the claws sharp. Retracted while walking and resting, the claws are outstretched when the tiger catches its prey. The four claws in each forepaw can carve scratches in tree trunks as deep as 1.5 cm. This is one way in which tigers mark their territory.

Roaring and Mewing

A roar is the tiger's most powerful expression and can be heard over a distance of two miles. Tigers roar after a kill or during a fight. Female tigers also roar when they are in heat. If a tiger faces an unwelcome animal, whether another tiger or a different species, it growls threateningly or snorts. While attacking, it hisses like a cat. During a romantic meeting with its sweetheart or a family meeting, it purrs or moans or even mews.

Tigers have rusty-reddish to brown coats, a light (whitish) medial and ventral area, and stripes that vary from light brown to pure black. The form and density of stripes differs between subspecies, but most tigers have over 100 stripes. The pattern of stripes is unique to each animal and thus could potentially be used to identify individuals, much in the same way as fingerprints are used to identify people. This is not, however, a preferred method of identification, due to the difficulty of recording the stripe pattern of a wild tiger. It seems likely that the function of the tiger's stripes is camouflage, serving to hide these animals from their prey.

Introduction – about the Tiger

In the wild, tigers mostly feed on large and medium sized animals. Sambar, gaur, domestic buffalo, chital, boar and nilgai are the tiger's favoured prey. Young elephant and rhino calves, crocodiles and large fish are also occasionally taken. Tigers hunt alone and ambush their prey as other cats do, using their body size and strength to knock large prey off balance. Even with their great masses, tigers can reach speeds of about 49-65 kilometres per hour (35-40 miles per hour). When hunting large prey, tigers prefer to bite the throat and use their muscled forelimbs to hold onto the prey, bringing it to the ground. The tiger remains latched onto the neck until its prey dies of strangulation. With small prey, the tiger bites the nape, often breaking the spinal cord, piercing the windpipe, or severing the jugular vein or common carotid artery. The prey is killed instantly.

INVISIBLE 1

The Tiger knows how to show his partner the killing continuation.

EW Vulnerable
Pairs

W	N	E	S
			1 ♠
Dbl	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3 ♦	3NT	Pass
4 ♥	All Pass		

	N		♠ K 9 8 7 3
W		E	♥ 6 2
			♦ Q J
	S		♣ K 7 6 4
♠ A Q 6 5 2			
♥ J 5			
♦ 5			
♣ A 8 5 3 2			

Lead ♣9.

The calf won with the ace and played ♣5 back for his partner to ruff. North obediently played a spade.

Invisible 1

♠ —		♠ K 9 8 7 3
♥ A K Q 10 9 3	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♥ 6 2
♦ A 7 4 2		♦ Q J
♣ Q J 10		♣ K 7 6 4

West ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps, and played the ♣10, conceding a diamond and claiming 10 tricks.

The spider defended the deal at another table. He found a better solution. After winning the first trick with the ace of clubs, he returned a diamond, compelling declarer to do some hard work at the table. Rising with the ace was a good move. After playing five rounds of trumps, the following ending was produced:

Part 1: the Tiger

	♠ J 10 4	
	♥ —	
	♦ K 10 9	
	♣ —	
♠ — ♥ 3 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ Q 10	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; padding: 0 10px;"> S </div>	♠ K 9 8 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ K 7 6
	♠ A Q	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ 8 5 3 2	

On the last heart, declarer pitched a spade from the dummy.

- a) If South discards a club, West will play the club queen, overtake the ten with the king in dummy, and endplay South with a club.
- b) If South discards the queen of spades, declarer will overtake the queen of clubs with the king and give up a spade, unblocking the ♣10. South can cash the ♣8, but dummy will take the last two tricks with the ♠K and ♣7.

The Tiger's defence was different. He won the trick with ace of clubs and returned the ♣2! Partner ruffed and obediently played a diamond. Dummy's diamond honour held the trick but declarer was not happy at all.

Invisible 1

The first three tricks had left these cards outstanding:

	♠ J 10 4										
	♥ 8 7										
	♦ K 10 9 8 6										
	♣ —										
♠ —		♠ K 9 8 7 3									
♥ A K Q 10 9 3		♥ 6 2									
♦ A 7 4		♦ Q									
♣ Q		♣ K 7									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A Q 6 5 2										
	♥ J 5										
	♦ —										
	♣ 8 5 3										

After five rounds of trumps, declarer was helpless. This was the final position:

	♠ J 10										
	♥ —										
	♦ K 10 9										
	♣ —										
♠ —		♠ K 9									
♥ 3		♥ —									
♦ A 7 4		♦ Q									
♣ Q		♣ K 7									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A Q										
	♥ —										
	♦ —										
	♣ 8 5 3										

Whatever he did, declarer had to concede two more tricks.

INVISIBLE 2

Tigers ambush their prey.

South hears his partner make a card-showing double of 3♥ and goes for the jugular, seeking the magic 200.

EW Vulnerable

Pairs

W	N	E	S
			1♣
1♥	1♠*	2♥	2♠**
3♥	Dbl	All Pass	

* – Four plus spades

** – Four-card raise

	N		♠ Q 6 4 2
			♥ K 8 7
W		E	♦ Q 8 4 3
			♣ 8 2
	S		
			♠ A K 10 3
			♥ 6 5
			♦ J 9
			♣ K J 7 5 4

Lead ♣10. West won the ten with the queen and played a heart to the eight, a club to the ace, and ruffed a club, North following suit. Declarer played the king of hearts from the dummy and partner won with the ace, returning the seven of spades. Declarer played low from the dummy. What is your line of defence?

ANALYSIS

You should win with the ace, not with the king! Partner will not be misled – he knows declarer has a singleton spade.

What do we know about declarer's hand? His shape is already clear: 1 – 5 – 4 – 3. As to the location of the missing honours, we can place partner with a high diamond and the ♥J because of the early play in the trump suit; declarer has the rest of the relevant honours. However, sound analysis does not consist solely of answering the question, "What does declarer have in his hand?", although that is a necessary first step. The second question is: "What does declarer know about the defenders' hands?" A competent declarer will adjust his line of play as he learns more about the hand. On this deal, guessing the diamond suit correctly will be essential to the success of the contract.

What should be our goal defending this hand? Should we pursue a two trick set by envisioning a layout favourable to the defence, or should we do our best to ensure that the contract fails?

If declarer holds the following hand, the defence could arrange for a two trick set and +500:

♠ 5
♥ Q 10 9 3 2
♦ K 7 6 5
♣ A Q 3

After winning the ♠A and leading a club to promote partner's jack of hearts, forcing West with spades will reduce him to only one diamond trick. Should we select this line of defence? In a pairs tournament, on a hand where no game contract seems possible, the difference between +200 and +500 rates to be very small, indeed: both will be excellent scores. Therefore we should concentrate on setting the game one trick by considering the cases in which declarer could potentially make his contract. This task is extremely difficult, but our imagination may lead us to a

Part 1: the Tiger

spectacular solution. We have to plan the defence anticipating different possible hands for declarer:

♠ 5
 ♥ Q 10 9 3 2
 ♦ A 7 6 5
 ♣ A Q 3

or

♠ 5
 ♥ Q 10 9 3 2
 ♦ K 10 7 6
 ♣ A Q 3

How should we defend? We have to lead declarer astray in his play of the diamond suit!

Let us review the final position:

♠ –	♠ J 9 8	♠ Q 6 4
♥ Q 10 9	♥ J	♥ –
♦ A 7 6 5	♦ K 10 2	♦ Q 8 4 3
♣ –	♣ –	♣ –

♠ –	N W E S	♠ Q 6 4
♥ Q 10 9		♥ –
♦ A 7 6 5		♦ Q 8 4 3
♣ –		♣ –

♠ K 10 3
♥ –
♦ J 9
♣ K J

or:

Invisible 2

	♠ J 9 8	
	♥ J	
	♦ A 5 2	
	♣ –	
♠ – ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ –	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; padding: 0 10px;"> S </div>	♠ Q 6 4 ♥ – ♦ Q 8 4 3 ♣ –
	♠ K 10 3	
	♥ –	
	♦ J 9	
	♣ K J	

After winning the ♠A, we now play a club to promote partner's jack of hearts. West ruffs with the ♥9, North overruffs with the jack and must play a second spade not a diamond. Since one discard will not affect the result, we duck dummy's queen! Ducking, combined with our play of the ♠A on the first round of the suit, will create an illusionary image of the location of honours. From declarer's point of view, our hand appears to be:

♠ A 10 8 3
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ K J 7 5 4

or:

♠ A 10 8 3
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ K J 7 5 4

Declarer will play us for a doubleton high diamond honour.

- a) In the first case, he will play the ace of diamonds and duck a diamond in the dummy.

Part 1: the Tiger

- b) In the second case, he will lead a low diamond to the king and duck the second diamond in dummy.

For our deception to pay off we shall need some cooperation from partner. He will have to duck his diamond honour without giving it a second thought, enabling us to score diamond tricks with both of our honours. Our risky double will produce a juicy +200.

Note that our defence will not be successful if declarer's hand is as follows:

♠ 5
♥ Q 10 9 3 2
♦ A 10 7 6
♣ A Q 3

After winning dummy's spade queen, declarer will play a diamond to the ten. This play will protect him from either the ♦ K x or ♦ J x with South.

Invisible 2

Here comes the full deal:

	♠ J 9 8 7										
	♥ A J 4										
	♦ K 10 2										
	♣ 10 9 6										
♠ 5		♠ Q 6 4 2									
♥ Q 10 9 3 2		♥ K 8 7									
♦ A 7 6 5		♦ Q 8 4 3									
♣ A Q 3		♣ 8 2									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A K 10 3										
	♥ 6 5										
	♦ J 9										
	♣ K J 7 5 4										

People often ask me, “Do spectacular moves like these actually occur at the bridge table? Is it true that in many publications, the deals are souped up and the course of events modified, even invented?” The answer to both questions is “yes”. I am not against colouring the account of a deal, if it serves an educational purpose and is not done just to make a particular player look good. However brilliance is sometimes achieved at the table, and an Israeli player actually defended this hand in the way I have described.

INVISIBLE 3

Prompt analysis allows for spectacular and effective moves.

Pairs

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

* – 2 out of 5 keycards without ♠Q.

♠ 8 7 3
♥ Q J 10 4 3
♦ A 7 4 2
♣ 8

	N		♠ A 9 2
W		E	♥ K 8 7
			♦ Q 6 3
	S		♣ A Q 10 2

Lead ♥Q. West won in hand, partner signalling an even number of cards in hearts. Declarer played two rounds of trumps ending in the dummy and played a diamond to the king. South signalled an odd number of diamonds by playing ♦9.

ANALYSIS

Declarer has all the key cards. The only hope to set the contract is that the clubs break 4–1 with the jack of clubs protected in South. Let us consider two variations of declarer's hand:

1. 5 – 3 – 1 – 4 distribution

♠ K Q J 10 5
♥ A 9 2
♦ K
♣ K 7 5 3

This hand is hardly possible. Why?

South, holding ♦ J 10 9 5 4, would have signalled with the jack and not the nine.

2. 5 – 1 – 3 – 4 distribution

♠ K Q J 10 5
♥ A
♦ K 10 5
♣ K 7 5 3

Why should I assign the ♦10 to declarer? The reason is the same: South, holding ♦ 10 9 x, would signal with the ten. What will happen if we capture the king of diamonds with the ace?

Part 1: the Tiger

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 8 7 3	
	♥ Q J 10 4 3	
	♦ A 7 4 2	
	♣ 8	
♠ K Q J 10 5	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ A 9 2
♥ A		♥ K 8 7
♦ K 10 5		♦ Q 6 3
♣ K 7 5 3		♣ A Q 10 2
	♠ 6 4	
	♥ 9 6 5 2	
	♦ J 9 8	
	♣ J 9 6 4	

After winning the trick with the ace of diamonds, nothing we can do will help the defence.

Declarer will arrive at this end position:

	♠ –	
	♥ J 10	
	♦ 7 4	
	♣ 8	
♠ K	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ –
♥ –		♥ –
♦ 10		♦ 6
♣ K 7 5		♣ A Q 10 2
	♠ –	
	♥ –	
	♦ J	
	♣ J 9 6 4	

On the last trump South is squeezed in diamonds and clubs.

Invisible 4

What will happen if the Tiger ducks the king of diamonds? Declarer will find out about the unfavourable club break and cash all his honours to produce this ending:

	♠ –	
	♥ J 10	
	♦ A 7	
	♣ –	
♠ K	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ –
♥ –		♥ –
♦ 10 5		♦ Q 6
♣ 7		♣ A 10
	♠ –	
	♥ –	
	♦ J 8	
	♣ J 9	

But to declarer, who believes that the ♦A is with South, the layout of the remaining cards appears to be:

	♠ –	
	♥ J 10	
	♦ J 7	
	♣ –	
♠ K	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ –
♥ –		♥ –
♦ 10 5		♦ Q 6
♣ 7		♣ A 10
	♠ –	
	♥ –	
	♦ A 8	
	♣ J 9	

He will discard a diamond on the spade king and exit with a diamond, expecting South to be caught in a strip squeeze. To West's dismay North will take the diamond ace and cash his heart.

This problem exemplifies the advantage of skilful analysis over long deliberations about declarer's hand. If West leads low to the king without any hesitation at the third trick, North will have no time to consider his move. Declarer's play performed at a proper tempo makes his opponents' life very difficult. I do not have to mention that even the slightest hesitation before ducking the diamond king will thwart this sophisticated plan of defence.

INVISIBLE 4

Making use of their excellent hearing and sight, as well as the camouflage afforded by the jungle, tigers creep up on their victims.

NS Vulnerable

Teams

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

* – forcing with spade support

♠ K 5
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ J 9 8 6 3
 ♣ J 10 6 2

N			♠ Q J 10 4
W			♥ K 6
E			♦ K 7 4
S			♣ K 9 5 3

Lead ♥Q. Partner covers the king with the ace, cashes the jack of hearts, and, having no better option, continues with the ♥10.

ANALYSIS

Let us imagine declarer's hand. It appears that the possession of any minor suit queen in addition to the remaining three aces would allow declarer to bring the contract home without any problem. There is also nothing to the defence if partner has a second ace, as the contract can not succeed. What if declarer has the three aces without a minor suit queen?

Let us consider the following West hands:

♠ A 8 7 6 2
♥ 9 4 2
♦ A 5
♣ A 7 4

In this case the defence is irrelevant. Declarer has no chance to make the contract.

♠ A 8 7 6 2
♥ 9 4 2
♦ A 5 2
♣ A 7

In this variation, we shall be squeezed in diamonds and clubs. West will give up the king of spades and ruff a club to arrive at this the end position:

Invisible 5

	♠ –	
	♥ –	
	♦ J 9 8	
	♣ J	
♠ 8	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ –
♥ –		♥ –
♦ A 5 2		♦ K 7 4
♣ –		♣ 9
	♠ –	
	♥ 8 5	
	♦ Q 10	
	♣ –	

The last trump will execute a squeeze against North.

Here comes the deal:

	♠ K 5	
	♥ Q 7	
	♦ J 9 8 6 3	
	♣ J 10 6 2	
♠ A 8 7 6 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ Q J 10 4
♥ 9 4 2		♥ K 6
♦ A 5 2		♦ K 7 4
♣ A 7		♣ K 9 5 3
	♠ 9 3	
	♥ A J 10 8 5 3	
	♦ Q 10	
	♣ Q 8 4	

When partner played the ♥10 at the third trick, the Tiger, sitting North, underruffed with the five of trumps without a second thought!

Part 1: the Tiger

This hand was used as a problem in bridge class, and now the Professor could not resist producing the typical reaction of a teacher and asked a question – “why did the Tiger underruff with the ♠5 at the third heart trick?”

Jacek: He wanted to unnerve declarer.

Robert: This is truly a Grosvenor Coup. We are giving declarer a chance to make an overtrick, one he could not make by normal play. It looks like a chance to irritate him – at no cost to ourselves.

Ania: Remember that only a well-thought analysis triggers imagination. So this seemingly absurd move must, in fact, have an underlying reason.

Robert: It is our job as defenders to consider how things might look to our opponent, and that is what the Tiger was doing. From declarer’s point of view, the defenders’ manoeuvres indicate that there is a genuine risk of a trump promotion. The whole deal may look like this:

	♠ 5	
	♥ Q 7	
	♦ J 9 8 6 3	
	♣ J 10 6 4 2	
♠ A 8 7 6 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">W E</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div>	♠ Q J 10 4
♥ 9 4 2		♥ K 6
♦ A 5 2		♦ K 7 4
♣ A 7		♣ K 9 5 3
	♠ K 9 3	
	♥ A J 10 8 5 3	
	♦ Q 10	
	♣ Q 8	

Agata: No way! The odds of finding a singleton spade with a doubleton heart are virtually nil.

Tomek: Yes, the likelihood of a spade singleton with a heart doubleton is small, but North's ruffing with the ♠5 creates the illusion that this might indeed be the layout. In my opinion, declarer might well consider discarding a diamond at the third trick.

Andrzej: Is that his only option? If South's shape is 3 – 6 – 2 – 2 or 3 – 6 – 1 – 3 declarer can overruff, planning on losing a promoted spade trick to South. After any return he will ruff a club and produce the ending we already know; that is, catching North in a diamond-club squeeze. The ♠5 will have fooled West, but fact that North will be the one who wins the trump trick won't change the end result: 4♠ making.

Robert: True, but if declarer is playing North for the singleton ♠5 then discarding a diamond guarantees the contract against *any* South distribution bar a minor-suit void. Overruffing won't succeed if South's shape is 3 – 6 – 3 – 1, such as:

♠ K 9 3
♥ A J 10 8 5 3
♦ Q 5 2
♣ Q

If South holds that hand, there is the risk of a trump promotion and no possible squeeze to avoid a minor suit loser.

Ania: Right. So declarer's best line of play – assuming that North ruffed with the singleton ♠5 – is to discard a diamond at the third trick. As the cards actually lie, this will lead to a one trick defeat: the defence will

take the first three tricks, and North will win his bare ♠K when declarer finesses in trumps.

Professor: Underruffing with the ♠5 is a sophisticated play with admittedly only a small chance to success. For it to work declarer must:

- a) believe that the ♠5 is singleton, and
- b) make a careful analysis and arrive at the “optimal” line of play.

Nonetheless, it presents declarer with a losing option in an otherwise secure contract and gives the defence a chance to prevail.

INVISIBLE 5

The true beauty of the game can be seen in subtle manoeuvres like the one shown here.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

♠ K Q 10 9
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ 8 7 2
 ♣ 10 8 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 2
 ♥ K J 8 7
 ♦ Q J 9 3
 ♣ K 2

Lead ♠Q. Partner, in accordance with your carding agreements, contributes the jack to clarify the layout of the suit. Declarer wins the third round of spades with the ace and cashes four rounds of hearts. You discard two small diamonds, West also discarding a diamond on the fourth heart.

Part 1: the Tiger

♠ K Q 10 9
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ 8 7 2
 ♣ 10 8 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 2
 ♥ K J 8 7
 ♦ Q J 9 3
 ♣ K 2

♠ J 6 4
 ♥ 10 6 5 2
 ♦ A K 10
 ♣ J 9 7

At this point declarer's play was automatic: his only chance was to find both top diamond honours with South. Declarer cashed three club tricks to arrive at this end-position:

♠ —	♠ 9	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ 6 5	♦ 8	♦ Q J 9
♣ 5	♣ J	♣ —

N
E
S
W

♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ A K 10	♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —

He now played a diamond to the jack and finished with nine tricks.

The Tiger's job is to persuade declarer to create an alternative universe for himself. On the third trick the Tiger discarded a diamond, but on the fourth trick he discarded his remaining spade! And indeed, West began to think. Why did North get rid of his established spade winner? Declarer imagined two possibilities:

1. North made a mistake and was afraid to discard another diamond from an original holding of:

♠ K Q 10 9
♥ 4 3
♦ K 10 2
♣ 10 8 6 4

2. He was compelled to discard the spade, having started with:

♠ K Q 10 9
♥ 4 3
♦ A K 2
♣ 10 8 6 4

Discarding a club would allow declarer to run that suit and make his contract, finishing with 1 spade + 4 hearts + 4 clubs.

In either case, to succeed declarer must change his tactics and play the queen of diamonds from the dummy, win the expected club return in hand, and lead towards dummy's remaining diamond honour. The club king will provide an entry to dummy's two established diamond tricks. I do not have to mention that this was the only way to go down.

PATIENT 1

The patient tiger retracts its claws and waits in hiding for a victim to come closer.

NS Vulnerable

Teams

W	N	E	S
	1♣	1♦	2♣
2♠	3♣	4♠	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♠	Dbl
All Pass			

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ K 9 7 5
	♥ A 10 8
	♦ Q J 9 8 5 2
	♣ –
	♠ A 4 3
	♥ K 6
	♦ 7 4 3
	♣ 7 6 4 3 2

Lead ♣A. West ruffs in dummy, following low from hand, and plays the king of spades. Plan your defence.

ANALYSIS

Partner bid his club suit freely at the three-level, despite having minimum high card strength, so he should have a strong six-card suit. Declarer's most likely shape is 5 – 4 – 2 – 2 – since we shall find out partner has one spade in a moment. Declarer ruffs and plays a spade.

Before making a thorough analysis, we duck the ♠K and win the spade continuation with the ace, planning on exiting with a trump. Our defence depends on finding partner with a diamond honour and the club king. On the second round of spades, however, partner discards the club queen. It is now obvious that the West has the king of clubs. In fact, we should have known that from the start: if West had a second small club he would have entered his hand on the first round of spades to ruff it, instead of leading the king.

The damage already done, we play a heart, hoping that partner has the queen or that declarer misguesses the position. Unfortunately, declarer plays the queen without a moment's hesitation and gives up a diamond trick.

The hand is over. Exiting with the heart king instead of a small heart would not help either: the nine of spades provides an entry to the dummy.

We criticise partner for his poor lead. True, his lead was not the best in the world. Our double should have inspired him to find the heart lead, but did we do our job?

Part 1: the Tiger

Here comes the full deal:

	♠ 6	
	♥ J 9 3 2	
	♦ A 10	
	♣ A Q J 10 9 8	
♠ Q J 10 8 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> W </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center;"> S </div>	♠ K 9 7 5
♥ Q 7 5 4		♥ A 10 8
♦ K 6		♦ Q J 9 8 5 2
♣ K 5		♣ –
	♠ A 4 3	
	♥ K 6	
	♦ 7 4 3	
	♣ 7 6 4 3 2	

Although it is not easy to see the best defensive line, the Tiger will patiently duck spades twice!

This will be the final position:

	♠ –	
	♥ J 9 3 2	
	♦ A 10	
	♣ J 10 9 8	
♠ Q J 8	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> W </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center;"> S </div>	♠ 9
♥ Q 7 5 4		♥ A 10 8
♦ K 6		♦ Q J 9 8 5 2
♣ K		♣ –
	♠ A	
	♥ K 6	
	♦ 7 4 3	
	♣ 6 4 3 2	

Patient 1

If West plays a third spade, we shall win and play the king of hearts. The jack of hearts in partner's hand is now enough to set the contract. If declarer concedes a diamond trick after two rounds of spades, North will lead through dummy's hearts. Our spade ace will prevent declarer from discarding his losing hearts on diamonds in due course.

PATIENT 2

Tigers do not always attack immediately. They know how to lie in ambush and wait until the victim weakens.

Playing in a contract with a 4-3 trump fit frequently requires careful declarer play and equally thoughtful defence.

Teams

W	N	E	S
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

♠ J 9 3
♥ 10 6 2
♦ A K 10
♣ A 9 7 6

	N		♠ A Q 7 6 5 2
			♥ A 7 5
W		E	♦ 9 5 4
	S		♣ 3

You lead the ♦A followed by the king and another. Declarer ruffs the third round and advances the club king. You win with the ace and lead through the dummy's spade holding. Unfortunately for the defence, the heart suit breaks 3-3 and the contract is secure. The defenders complained about their bad luck and the E/W players were pleased with their intelligent bidding, but nobody at the table noticed that the contract might have been beaten.

PATIENT 3

Certain moves are very unlikely to appear at the table.

Jump bids sometimes force declarer into committing himself prematurely.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♦	2♦*	Pass	3♥
5♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

* – 5–5 in the majors

	N		♠ K J 9 8 5 3
			♥ 8 7 5
W		E	♦ 9 7 4
			♣ Q
	S		
♠ 7 4			
♥ Q 10 6 4			
♦ 6 5 2			
♣ A J 10 5			

Partner leads the ♥A and ♥K. Declarer ruffs the second round of hearts and plays a club. You win with the ace and continue the attack on hearts, but it leads nowhere. West ruffs two clubs in dummy, draws trumps and claims 11 tricks. You start criticising your partner for not playing a trump when he had the lead at the second trick, but you have overlooked something.

Patient 3

Here is the full deal:

		♠ A Q 10 6 2	
		♥ A K J 9 3	
		♦ 3	
		♣ 4 2	
♠ —			♠ K J 9 8 5 3
♥ 2			♥ 8 7 5
♦ A K Q J 10 8	W	E	♦ 9 7 4
♣ K 9 8 7 6 3		S	♣ Q
		♠ 7 4	
		♥ Q 10 6 4	
		♦ 6 5 2	
		♣ A J 10 5	

The Tiger ducked the queen of clubs!

Declarer could collect only 10 tricks – 9 trump tricks and a club. There were not enough communications to establish the club suit.

PATIENT 4

Few declarers fully trust the signals of their opponents – that is, even if they are able to remember precisely which cards were played. Here East drove to slam in a straightforward fashion.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

* – 2 out of 5 keycards without ♠Q

♠ A Q 10 6
 ♥ 10 9 3 2
 ♦ 10 8 2
 ♣ 8 7

	N		♠ K J 7 5
W		E	♥ A K J 8
			♦ A Q
	S		♣ Q 9 3

Lead ♣8. West wins in hand and plays the ♠4 to the jack, partner signalling an even number of cards. Declarer draws the remaining trumps, South following for three rounds. Declarer plays another spade. We win the trick with the ace but there is nothing we can do! Why?

Patient 4

Here comes the full deal:

	♠ A Q 10 6	
	♥ 10 9 3 2	
	♦ 10 8 2	
	♣ 8 7	
♠ 8 4 3	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ K J 7 5
♥ 7 5 4		♥ A K J 8
♦ K J		♦ A Q
♣ A K J 10 5		♣ Q 9 3
	♠ 9 2	
	♥ Q 6	
	♦ 9 7 6 5 4 3	
	♣ 6 4 2	

In the four-card ending, declarer will produce the following show-up squeeze:

	♠ Q	
	♥ 10 9 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	
♠ —	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ 7
♥ 7 5 4		♥ A K J
♦ —		♦ —
♣ J		♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ Q 6	
	♦ 9 7	
	♣ —	

Part 1: the Tiger

It is not easy to spot the best line of defence. The Tiger will patiently duck in spades, playing the queen on the second round!

1. If West leads spades for a third time, North will win cheaply and play a fourth spade, preventing the show-up squeeze. The contract will come down to declarer's play in the heart suit.
2. If declarer abandons spades after the second round to cash two diamond tricks and run his clubs, North will discard a heart on the penultimate trump. The five-card ending will be as follows:

	♠ A 10	
	♥ 10 9 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	
♠ 8	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">N</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: left;">S</div> </div>	♠ 7 5
♥ 7 5 4		♥ A K J
♦ —		♦ —
♣ J		♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ Q 6	
	♦ 9 7 6	
	♣ —	

On the last trump, North will get rid of the ace of spades. Will it help? Quite possibly: a careful observer of the discards in spades and diamonds by South might conceivably work out the actual layout. He might just discard the jack of hearts from the dummy and concede a spade trick. However, not many players are able to remember such discards and in fact, few believe in them.

PATIENT 5

Seemingly obvious moves by the defenders sometimes let the contract make all too easily.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣**	Pass	6♠	All Pass

* – A

** – 0-3 Aces

N	♠ K Q J 10 8
W	♥ J 5
E	♦ K J 9 5 2
S	♣ A
♠ 3 2	
♥ 6 4 3	
♦ Q 10 4 3	
♣ K 4 3 2	

Lead ♥K. West wins with the ace and unblocks the ace of clubs, North signalling an odd number in the suit. West enters his hand with the spade ace and plays the jack of clubs, discarding a heart from the dummy. You win the trick with the club king and... the defence is over. Declarer has five spades, one heart, two diamonds and four clubs.

Part 1: the Tiger

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 9 7 6 5										
	♥ K Q 9 8										
	♦ 8 7										
	♣ 8 7 6										
♠ A 4		♠ K Q J 10 8									
♥ A 10 7 2		♥ J 5									
♦ A 6		♦ K J 9 5 2									
♣ Q J 10 9 5		♣ A									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 3 2										
	♥ 6 4 3										
	♦ Q 10 4 3										
	♣ K 4 3 2										

The Tiger will patiently duck the club jack! There is nothing declarer can do. He will most likely play a third round of clubs, discarding a diamond from the dummy. This time, the Tiger will win with the king and play a club back. North will ruff and declarer will be one trick short.

SHREWD 1

The Tiger goes out of his way in an attempt to mislead his opponents.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

* – natural, forcing

	N		♠ 9 7 5 2
W		E	♥ A
			♦ K Q 8 3
	S		♣ 9 7 6 3
♠ Q 10 8 6 4			
♥ Q 3			
♦ A J			
♣ J 10 5 4			

Lead ♥J. We unblock the suit by following with the queen. West plays three rounds of clubs. On the third round partner discards the ♥2, signalling an original even number of hearts.

ANALYSIS

In practice, we can work out West's hand precisely:

♠ A K
♥ K x x x
♦ x x x x
♣ A K Q

West plays a diamond to the king. We win with the ace, cash a club (or not) and play a heart.

Here is the full deal:

♠ J 3
 ♥ J 10 9 7 5 2
 ♦ 10 7 5
 ♣ 8 2

♠ A K
 ♥ K 8 6 4
 ♦ 9 6 4 2
 ♣ A K Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 5 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ K Q 8 3
 ♣ 9 7 6 3

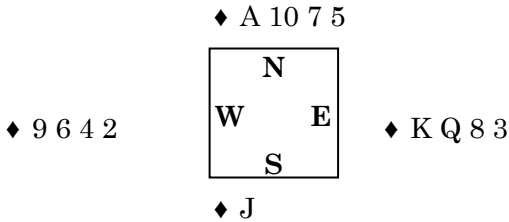
♠ Q 10 8 6 4
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ A J
 ♣ J 10 5 4

Our opponent ducks the heart, wins the heart continuation, and a diamond towards dummy's eight brings the contract home whenever it can be made.

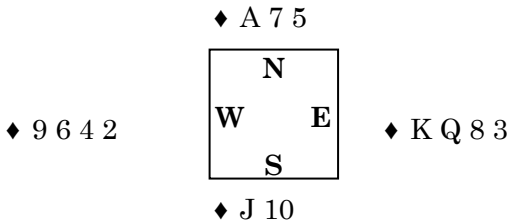
Shrewd 1

The Tiger, sitting South, will anticipate this course of play and counter by playing the diamond jack on the first round! Declarer, needing to win only one more diamond trick to make his contract, can envisage three possible layouts:

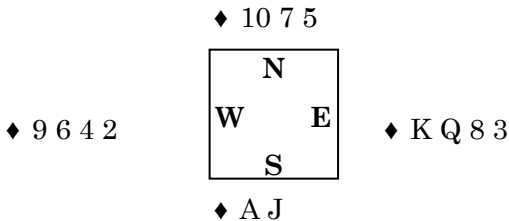
a)



b)



c)



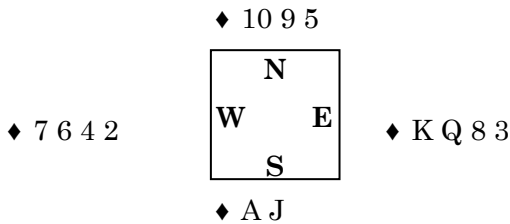
In a), the most probable layout, leading to either the queen or eight on the second round will succeed. In b), declarer must lead to the queen; in c), to the eight. Which will he choose?

Part 1: the Tiger

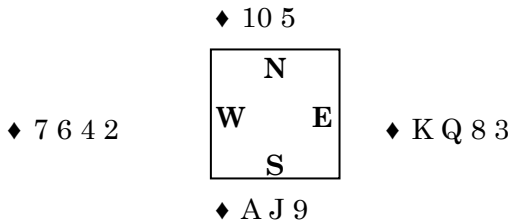
There is a strong argument that few defenders would duck a diamond honour holding the A J doubleton. Therefore, declarer will most likely protect against the J 10 in South by leading up to dummy's queen. Now a heart return establishes the suit and partner's $\spadesuit 10$ provides an entry.

Some final reflections on the deal:

If declarer is missing the $\spadesuit 9$ in addition to the $\spadesuit 10$ he will face a guess in the suit. On the first round of diamonds, declarer leads to the king in dummy and South wins the ace. If the diamond position is as follows:



When declarer leads a second diamond towards dummy and North contributes the ten, declarer has to duck. But if the $\spadesuit 9$ is with South:



Declarer has to win the queen and concede a trick to South.

SHREWD 2

The Tiger knows how to mislead his victim.

You have decided not to come into the bidding with your meagre collection.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 3
♥ J 5 4 2
♦ A 7 4 2
♣ K J

♠ Q 10 8 5
♥ K Q 8
♦ K 9
♣ Q 7 5 2

Lead ♥6. Prepare your defence.

ANALYSIS

This is the full layout:

<p>♠ A K 4</p> <p>♥ 10</p> <p>♦ Q J 10 8 6 5</p> <p>♣ A 9 6</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p>N</p> <p>W E</p> <p>S</p> </div>	<p>♠ 7 6 2</p> <p>♥ A 9 7 6 3</p> <p>♦ 3</p> <p>♣ 10 8 4 3</p>
	<p>♠ Q 10 8 5</p> <p>♥ K Q 8</p> <p>♦ K 9</p> <p>♣ Q 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ J 9 3</p> <p>♥ J 5 4 2</p> <p>♦ A 7 4 2</p> <p>♣ K J</p>

Creating a false impression may be your only chance. The Tiger wins with the king of hearts and exits with the eight! (North must work out to follow with the three.) Declarer will now imagine a slightly different layout.

Shrewd 2

	♠ 7 6 2	
	♥ A Q 9 6 3	
	♦ 9 3	
	♣ 10 8 4 3	
♠ A K 4	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> S </div>	♠ J 9 3
♥ 10		♥ J 5 4 2
♦ Q J 10 8 6 5		♦ A 7 4 2
♣ A 9 6		♣ K J
	♠ Q 10 8 5	
	♥ K 8 7	
	♦ K	
	♣ Q 7 5 2	

He will win the jack of hearts and play the ace of diamonds. (Why wouldn't declarer have finessed the diamond king? West believes that North started with the ♥ A Q 9 6 3; if North also held the ♦ K 3, he would have overcalled the 1♦ opening.)

The correct play of the diamond suit will not help declarer; it is too late for him. Ducking the ♥ 8 is his only winning line, which in reality is practically impossible.

SHREWD 3

The tiger's roar is his most powerful expression and can be heard over a distance of two miles. Tigers roar after making a kill and during fights.

You were active in the bidding but your opponents still reached game.

EW Vulnerable
Teams

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dbl
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

	N		♠ A Q J 10
W		E	♥ K J 10 6
			♦ Q 3
	S		♣ 7 6 4
♠ 7 5 4			
♥ 9 2			
♦ 10 8 7 2			
♣ A K Q 6			

Lead ♣J. You won the first three tricks and everybody followed suit. You did not even notice which club spots your partner played. The defence seemed obvious. You exited with a diamond and waited to see what would happen, your part in the deal at an end. Unfortunately for the defence, declarer found the heart queen (playing with the odds) and scored up his game.

Shrewd 3

This was the full deal:

	♠ 9 8 6										
	♥ Q 5 3										
	♦ 9 6 5 4										
	♣ J 10 2										
♠ K 3 2		♠ A Q J 10									
♥ A 8 7 4		♥ K J 10 6									
♦ A K J		♦ Q 3									
♣ 9 8 3		♣ 7 6 4									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 7 5 4										
	♥ 9 2										
	♦ 10 8 7 2										
	♣ A K Q 6										

The Tiger was aware that the only critical honour his partner could have was the queen of hearts. Why? Because North followed with the club ten on the second trick and with the club two on the third round. So a diamond shift could not be right now. (South made these calculations in order to be on the safe side, just in case West opened 1NT with 14 points.)

The Tiger decided to play a club for the fourth time pretending that he was playing for a trump promotion! North did not ruff in on the fourth club, and now from the point of view of declarer, the layout might have been different than it actually was:

Part 1: the Tiger

	♠ 9 8 6 4	
	♥ 5 3	
	♦ 9 6 5 4	
	♣ J 10 2	
♠ K 3 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> S </div>	♠ A Q J 10
♥ A 8 7 4		♥ K J 10 6
♦ A K J		♦ Q 3
♣ 9 8 3		♣ 7 6 4
	♠ 7 5	
	♥ Q 9 2	
	♦ 10 8 7 2	
	♣ A K Q 6	

Declarer can hardly be blamed for misguessing the location of the heart queen. In this hypothetical layout, South's club continuation was obvious. Finding partner with the eight of hearts would have been enough to promote a trump trick and set the contract.

One cannot wait for Dame Fortune's gifts. We knew that our nine of hearts would lead declarer to the correct play in the trump suit if we left him to his own devices (since he would play the heart ace then lead to the ten to protect against the 4-1 breaks with North long in trumps). We needed a tiger roar to lead our victim astray.

SHREWD 4

The tiger walks very quietly because, like all cats, it can retract its claws and lie in wait until the victim comes closer.

Both Vulnerable
Teams

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

	N		♠ K J 10 4
W		E	♥ K Q 5
			♦ Q 7 3
	S		♣ J 9 8
♠ A Q 2			
♥ J 9 6 4			
♦ 10 4			
♣ K 7 6 2			

Lead ♦2. West won in hand with the ace and played the ♠9, finessing against the queen. Partner followed with the three, perhaps suggesting club values. You won and dutifully played a club. Partner won with the queen and returned a club. Declarer had ace-third of clubs and collected 10 tricks. “We gave him an overtrick,” you remarked to your partner.

Part 1: the Tiger

Here is the full deal.

	♠ 6 5 3	
	♥ 8 7 3	
	♦ J 9 8 2	
	♣ Q 10 4	
♠ 9 8 7	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N E S</div> </div>	♠ K J 10 4
♥ A 10 2		♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 6 5		♦ Q 7 3
♣ A 5 3		♣ J 9 8
	♠ A Q 2	
	♥ J 9 6 4	
	♦ 10 4	
	♣ K 7 6 2	

At the other table, the Tiger was sitting South. The play began the same way: North led the ♦2, declarer won with the ace and ran the nine of spades, which South won with the queen. From this point the play followed a different track. After winning the spade queen (partner signalling with the ♠3), the Tiger played the king of clubs, implying that he also had the queen!

The Tiger knew that the odds of finding declarer with the ace-doubleton of clubs were virtually zero: the bidding and opening lead indicated that his shape was 3 – 3 – 4 – 3. How? Holding a four card major partner would surely rather have led that suit than underlead jack-fourth of diamonds. Simple point counting suggested that partner has the queen of clubs; the Tiger hoped for both the queen and the ten. On the play of the ♣K, declarer paused to consider his next move. The distribution might have been slightly different.

Shrewd 4

	♠ A 5 3	
	♥ 8 7 3	
	♦ J 9 8 2	
	♣ 7 6 4	
♠ 9 8 7	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> S </div>	♠ K J 10 4
♥ A 10 2		♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 6 5		♦ Q 7 3
♣ A 5 3		♣ J 9 8
	♠ Q 6 2	
	♥ J 9 6 4	
	♦ 10 4	
	♣ K Q 10 2	

Against this layout, all he has to do is duck the club king to secure the contract. Admittedly, North's ♠3 suggests a slightly different location of the club honours, but then again, the ♠2 is nowhere in sight. Besides, who pays attention to the opponents' signals, much less trusts them?

INGENIOUS 1

Most tigers have more than 100 stripes. Although each tiger's stripe pattern is unique, the purpose of the stripes is more likely camouflage than identification.

The bidding started economically but concluded in spectacular style.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣ ^{*1}	Pass
2♠ ^{*2}	Pass	2NT ^{*3}	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

*1 – check back

*2 – minimum with support

*3 – forcing

N	♠ A K 6 3
W	♥ 10 3
E	♦ A Q 10 9
S	♣ A Q 3
♠ J 10 5 4	
♥ Q J 8	
♦ J 8 7	
♣ J 9 2	

Lead ♣6. West took the jack with the king and gave some thought to the play before playing to the second trick.

Ingenious 1

Let us use this time for our own analysis. West showed 12-13 points in the bidding, leaving partner with 2-3 points. If partner's honour is:

- a) the heart king, declarer can cash 12 tricks: 4 clubs, 3 spades, a heart and 4 diamonds.
- b) the spade queen, declarer again has 12 tricks: 4 clubs, 2 spades, 2 hearts and 4 diamonds.
- c) the diamond king, declarer has only 10 top tricks: 4 clubs, 3 spades, 2 hearts and a diamond. He will need to score two additional tricks in diamonds to make the slam.

Variation c) presents interesting possibilities. If the king-third of diamonds is onside even a beginner could collect 12 tricks by finessing twice in the suit, but if partner has the king-fourth of diamonds then declarer has only two diamond tricks readily available. However, on that layout declarer can execute a double squeeze. Suppose the full hand is as follows:

	♠ 9 8										
	♥ 9 7 6 4										
	♦ K 6 5 4										
	♣ 8 6 5										
♠ Q 7 2 ♥ A K 5 2 ♦ 3 2 ♣ K 10 7 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K 6 3 ♥ 10 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 ♣ A Q 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J 10 5 4										
	♥ Q J 8										
	♦ J 8 7										
	♣ J 9 2										

Declarer leads to the ♦9, which we win with the jack. What will happen if we return a diamond?

Part 1: the Tiger

Declarer wins the $\spadesuit 10$ and cashes the $\spadesuit A$. When the king does not fall, he cashes four rounds of clubs (discarding a heart from dummy) and three rounds of spades, ending with dummy's $\spadesuit K$. This will be the position:

	$\spadesuit -$	
	$\heartsuit 9\ 7$	
	$\diamond K$	
	$\clubsuit -$	
$\spadesuit -$	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N E S</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	$\spadesuit 6$
$\heartsuit A\ K\ 5$		$\heartsuit 10$
$\diamond -$		$\diamond Q$
$\clubsuit -$		$\clubsuit -$
	$\spadesuit J$	
	$\heartsuit J\ 8$	
	$\diamond -$	
	$\clubsuit -$	

In the three-card ending, each defender can keep only two hearts.

What if we play a heart after winning the $\diamond J$? Undoubtedly, this is an unpleasant return for declarer. Declarer, now lacking the communications that made the above line of play possible, must decide whether to play North for $\diamond K\ x\ x$ or $\diamond K\ x\ x\ x$.

If North has a hand such as:

$\spadesuit\ 9\ 8$
 $\heartsuit\ 9\ 8\ 7\ 6\ 4$
 $\diamond\ K\ 6\ 5$
 $\clubsuit\ 8\ 6\ 5$

Declarer must rely on solely on the diamond suit, as a double squeeze will not materialize.

Ingenious 1

If North instead has the king-fourth of diamonds, declarer can cash three spades and three clubs to bring about the following end position:

	♠ –										
	♥ 9 7										
	♦ K 6 5										
	♣ –										
♠ – ♥ A 5 2 ♦ 3 ♣ 10	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 ♥ 10 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ –
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J										
	♥ J 8										
	♦ 8 7										
	♣ –										

The ♣10 puts pressure on North, who discards a heart while West discards the ♦10 from the dummy. South can discard a diamond. Now declarer finesses the diamond queen, and the ace of diamonds squeezes South in spades and hearts. A non-simultaneous double squeeze.

Can the Tiger, sitting South, do anything more than return a heart and force declarer to guess the diamond layout?

The solution is difficult; but the Tiger should duck the ♦9 at the second trick! Declarer will wonder, “are both diamond honours with North, or did South duck from the king?” but the winning play is the same in either case: finesse the ten of diamonds. Finessing the queen of diamonds – the only line that succeeds against the actual layout – is practically impossible when the ♦9 stands.

Part 1: the Tiger

Declarer will cash two club tricks, return to his hand with the spade queen, and play a diamond to the ten. Upon winning the jack of diamonds South plays the queen of hearts and the communications for the double squeeze are broken. Playing the ♥Q produces this ending:

♠ 7	♠ —	
♥ A 5	♥ 9 7 6	
♦ —	♦ K	
♣ 10	♣ —	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ J 10	♠ K 6
	♥ J 8	♥ 10
	♦ —	♦ Q
	♣ —	♣ —

The ten of clubs will squeeze the dummy: one down.

INGENIOUS 2

There is always some concern as to whether we may be overestimating declarer's skill.

The bidding marks declarer with 6 spades and 5 diamonds.

Teams

W	N	E	S
			Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ 4 3 ♥ A J 8 3 ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q 10 9 3 2
	♠ A 10 6 ♥ K 9 7 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K 8 6 4

North made a somewhat strange opening lead of the jack of diamonds. Declarer won the first trick with the ace, cashed the king, and played a third diamond which he ruffed in dummy. Partner followed with the ♦8 and ♦9, perhaps suggesting club values. You overruff.

At first glance, the defence seems obvious: we can lead a club to partner's ace and overruff another diamond. On the other hand, this possibility should have been equally obvious to declarer.

Part 1: the Tiger

With the hand below he might well have played a club at the second trick to cut the defensive communications:

♠ K Q 8 7 5 2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A K Q 3 2
 ♣ 7

Therefore, if we trust declarer not to have made such an error, his hand must be different:

♠ K Q 8 7 5 2
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ A K Q 3 2
 ♣ —

What effect does this conclusion have on the defence? First we must consider the hand from declarer's point of view.

<p> ♠ K Q 8 7 5 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ A K Q 3 2 ♣ — </p>	<p> ♠ J 9 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ J 10 9 8 ♣ A J 7 5 </p>	<p> ♠ 4 3 ♥ A J 8 3 ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q 10 9 3 2 </p>									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">W</td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	<p> ♠ A 10 6 ♥ K 9 7 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K 8 6 4 </p>										

Declarer must assume that South has the ace of spades, otherwise the contract cannot be made (declarer is sure to lose a heart, the spade ace, and two over-ruffs). If South started with

the ace-third of spades, declarer can safely play trumps by leading an honour from hand. But if South's original holding was the ace-doubleton, that play will create an additional trump loser. Declarer has two options:

1. If he wants to play spades from his hand, he must guess South's original holding. He will advance a spade honour against an assumed ace-third, or a low spade against ace-doubleton.
2. He can lead a spade from dummy and cater to both possible holdings.

Most bridge experts will opt to lead spades from the board, but they will be aware that entering the dummy with the ace of hearts has some risk. The danger is that South, having started with the ace-third of spades, will rise with the ace when the second spade is led from dummy. With the ace of hearts gone, South can cross to his partner's hand with a heart and receive a second diamond ruff.

Declarer can protect against this defence by playing a heart to the jack after ruffing South's club return, keeping the dangerous opponent (North) off lead. Subsequently, he can safely win the heart ace and play a spade, since South will have no way to put his partner on lead. This plan will not work if North has both the king and queen of hearts, but given the strange opening lead that is hardly likely.

The Tiger tries to manipulate declarer's picture of the deal. He will play the king of clubs! To declarer it will seem as though South has the ♠AK and wants to obtain a count-showing signal from partner to find out the club distribution. Once West believes that South has the ♠AK in addition to the presumed ♠A, he will place the ♥KQ with North. (It is more plausible that North made a bizarre opening lead than that South failed to open with 13-14 points.) This layout gives declarer the opportunity to discard a

Part 1: the Tiger

heart when South leads a club at the fourth trick, since South will remain on lead. When declarer discards a heart, North will overtake the king of clubs with the ace and play a diamond!

It is essential that we execute our play in no time at all. If we contemplate the defence for five minutes, declarer will not believe that we hold both the ace and king of clubs. Ingenious moves of this sort carry a substantial risk. If we have overestimated declarer's skill and he does hold a club after all, then our partner has to overtake our king of clubs and play a diamond for the overruff.

There is still one more possibility. The full deal may be:

	♠ J 9	
	♥ Q 10 6 5 4	
	♦ J 10 9 8	
	♣ A J	
♠ K Q 8 7 5 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> N E S </div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	♠ 4 3
♥ —		♥ A J 8 3
♦ A K Q 3 2		♦ 7 5
♣ 7 5		♣ Q 10 9 3 2
	♠ A 10 6	
	♥ K 9 7 2	
	♦ 6 4	
	♣ K 8 6 4	

Even if partner overtakes our club king with the ace after West follows, we will still set the contract (one club, two diamond overruffs and the ace of spades). Nonetheless, without all these fancy moves the game would have been down three: club to the ace, diamond overruff, king of clubs and a club. North's jack of spades will be promoted and the defence would finish with two clubs, two diamond overruffs and two trump tricks.

INGENIOUS 3

The most ingenious defensive moves are based on technical knowledge, swift analysis, and the natural ability of bridge experts. Here the bidding was so precise it is no wonder that the opponents reached the grand slam in spades.

Teams

W	N	E	S
			2♥* ¹
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠* ²	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦* ³	Pass	7♠	All Pass

*¹ – weak

*² – 2 out of 5 keycards and the ♠Q

*³ – king of diamonds or the two other kings

	N		♠ 8 7 2
			♥ A 3
W		E	♦ A Q 10 5
	S		♣ A J 10 5

♠ 10 3
♥ K 10 8 7 6 4
♦ 6 5
♣ K 6 3

Lead ♥2 . Declarer won with the heart ace, played a few rounds of spades, and then, playing with the odds, finessed North for the diamond jack.

Part 1: the Tiger

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 7	
	♥ Q 9 2	
	♦ J 9 8 3 2	
	♣ Q 9 7 2	
♠ A K Q J 6 5 4	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 5		♥ A 3
♦ K 4		♦ A Q 10 5
♣ 8 4		♣ A J 10 5
	♠ 10 3	
	♥ K 10 8 7 6 4	
	♦ 6 5	
	♣ K 6 3	

The Tiger produced a swift analysis. Declarer had 12 tricks off the top. If forced to rely on diamonds for his thirteenth trick, would certainly play North for the jack and score up his grand slam. The Tiger decided to make a move that would put the opponent on the wrong track. He followed with the king of hearts at the first trick! He knew well that ambitious players avoid finessing like the plague, and so presented declarer with an alternative. Of course, declarer assumed the queen of hearts would be with South and planned a line of play which would succeed anytime South also held a doubleton diamond or the tripleton jack. Declarer expertly produced the following ending, in which the last spade would execute the double squeeze:

	♠ –										
	♥ –										
	♦ J										
	♣ Q 9										
♠ Q	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ –
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J		♥ –									
♦ –		♦ 10									
♣ 8		♣ A J									
	♠ –										
	♥ Q										
	♦ –										
	♣ K 6										

However, the reality was slightly different:

	♠ –										
	♥ Q										
	♦ J										
	♣ Q										
♠ Q	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ –
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J		♥ –									
♦ –		♦ 10									
♣ 8		♣ A J									
	♠ –										
	♥ 10										
	♦ –										
	♣ K 6										

On the last spade, North discarded a club and South the ten of hearts. All that this defence required was for North to retain his heart queen; and despite the fact that you have told your partner that you have this card you hope he will believe the evidence of his eyes, and not you.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 1

The four claws in each forepaw carve deep scratches into tree trunks. This is one way in which tigers mark their territory.

NS Vulnerable

Pairs

W	N	E	S
3♠	All Pass		1NT

	N		♠ 8 4
W		E	♥ Q 6 2
			♦ K J 4
	S		♣ A Q J 10 4
♠ A K 3			
♥ 9 8 5 3			
♦ A Q 10 5			
♣ K 2			

Lead ♥10. The ten could be from A J 10, K J 10, or 10 x.

Declarer carefully listened to your explanation regarding the opening lead and won the trick with the ace. In no time at all, the spade queen was on the table. You won and returned a heart. West, as might be expected, ruffed the heart and conceded a second spade trick. He ruffed another heart, drew trumps, and played the ♣9. Quite logically, you did not duck, as the bidding made the location of all the honours clear to everybody. You accurately cashed the ace of diamonds before it vanished on dummy's established clubs, and produced roughly a 30% result for your side.

Everything under control 1

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 7	
	♥ K J 10 7 4	
	♦ 9 7 2	
	♣ 8 7 5 3	
♠ Q J 10 9 6 5 2	<div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div>	♠ 8 4
♥ A		♥ Q 6 2
♦ 8 6 3		♦ K J 4
♣ 9 6		♣ A Q J 10 4
	♠ A K 3	
	♥ 9 8 5 3	
	♦ A Q 10 5	
	♣ K 2	

After winning the first round of spades, the Tiger played... a club!
 Why? Let us consider his strategy in a pairs tournament.

ANALYSIS

We must take consider two possible shapes for declarer.

1. 7 – 1 – 3 – 2

On our club lead, our partner sitting North will show an even number of clubs. After winning the second trump trick with the ace of spades, we will play another club and later collect three diamond tricks. Any possible discards on dummy's club suit will be prevented by the small trump we are holding. Result: 8 tricks = 79%. We gain almost 50% in comparison to letting the 3♠ contract come home.

2. 7 – 1 – 2 – 3

When we lead a club, North will show an odd number of cards. At this point one of three things will happen:

- a) We cash the diamond ace. Result: 10 tricks = 16%. We lose 14%.
- b) We return a heart and declarer, unwilling to risk playing clubs from the top, concedes a club trick anyway. Now we can cash the diamond ace. Result: 9 tricks = 30%.
- c) We return a heart; declarer trusts our partner's count signal and plays the club ace, dropping our king. Result: 11 tricks = 8%.

The profit and loss account clearly shows why the Tiger returned a club.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 2

The application of the appropriate pressure leaves the victim totally helpless. The tiger carefully watches the movements of his potential prey.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

♠ K 7 6 2
♥ J 10 6
♦ 10 6 3
♣ Q 9 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 10 9 5
♥ K Q 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 8 4 2

After considering the ♠K, you select the opening lead of the ♠2.

Partner wins with the ace, West following with the jack, and returns the ♥3. You cover the seven with the ten and declarer wins the trick in dummy, following up by taking the club finesse. You win the trick with the queen and play back the jack of hearts, but the nine of hearts is in declarer's hand and the defenders have only four tricks.

Part 1: the Tiger

Here comes the full deal:

	♠ K 7 6 2	
	♥ J 10 6	
	♦ 10 6 3	
	♣ Q 9 5	
♠ J		♠ Q 10 9 5
♥ 9 7 5		♥ K Q 2
♦ A K Q J		♦ 8 7 4
♣ A K J 10 3		♣ 8 4 2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A 8 4 3	
	♥ A 8 4 3	
	♦ 9 5 2	
	♣ 7 6	

Where was the mistake? In the lack of analysis!

(Yes, in passing, West's bidding was awful: 2NT with shortness in spades and without an honour in hearts would not stand up to any critic's analysis. But matchpoints does funny things to people.)

Declarer has nine tricks available if he has 1 – 3 – 4 – 5 shape: one heart, four diamonds and four clubs. With 1 – 3 – 3 – 6 distribution he also has nine winners: one heart, three diamonds, and five clubs.

North can count four defensive winners so far – two top spades, the ace of hearts, and the queen of clubs – and if partner has the ♥9 they will be able to collect 2 more heart tricks. However, one possibility was missing from this analysis. After winning the club trick with the queen of clubs, the Tiger cashed the king of spades! The intention is obvious – to potentially squeeze the declarer – but cooperation from partner is a necessity.

Everything under control 2

If South has the ♥9, he should follow with his top spade. Now North will switch to the jack of hearts and the contract will be down two. West's discard on the ♠K is irrelevant.

If South follows with a small spade, indicating that he does not possess the ♥9, North has to watch West's discard carefully.

- a) If declarer discards a heart on the king of spades, North should play the jack of hearts.
- b) If declarer discards a minor suit winner, North will throw him in with a diamond and wait for the defence's two heart tricks.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 3

There are hands with several possible variations of declarer play and defence.

NS Vulnerable
Teams

W	N	E	S
4 ♠	All Pass		

	N		♠ 4 2
W		E	♥ A J 10 6 2
			♦ J 4
	S		♣ A 10 5 4
♠ 8 7 3			
♥ 9 8 5 3			
♦ A K 5			
♣ K 8 2			

Lead ♣Q. West ducked. He won the club continuation with the ace and ruffed a club in hand. Next he played the ♦2. After some academic reflection, partner followed with the ♦9 (showing an odd number of cards in the suit) and declarer covered with the jack. It seems natural to return a trump upon winning the ♦K. West will win with the ♠A and play a second diamond; we will take the trick with the ♦A and persistently play another trump.

Everything under control 3

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 5										
	♥ Q 7 4										
	♦ Q 10 9 7 3										
	♣ Q J 7 3										
♠ A K Q J 10 9 6	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 4 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K		♥ A J 10 6 2									
♦ 8 6 2		♦ J 4									
♣ 9 6		♣ A 10 5 4									
	♠ 8 7 3										
	♥ 9 8 5 3										
	♦ A K 5										
	♣ K 8 2										

Declarer will execute a heart-diamond-club squeeze.

There is another way to defend: partner may win the second round of diamonds with the ten and play a fourth round of clubs, letting us discard the ace of diamonds. Declarer will play a few more rounds of trumps and produce the following ending:

♠ 6		♠ —
♥ K		♥ A J 10
♦ 8		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —

Part 1: the Tiger

The last trump will execute a heart-diamond squeeze, regardless of what West holds in hearts.

The Tiger should make a far-sighted, chess-like analysis. Declarer's distribution is obviously 7 – 1 – 3 – 2 and it should be apparent that the natural line of defence will lead to a squeeze against North. To break up the squeeze it is essential to switch to a heart, not a trump!

After South wins the first diamond and plays a heart, the position will be as follows:

	♠ 5										
	♥ Q 7										
	♦ Q 10 7 3										
	♣ J										
♠ A K Q J 10 9 ♥ – ♦ 8 6 ♣ –	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 4 2 ♥ A J 10 6 ♦ 4 ♣ 10
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 8 7 3										
	♥ 9 8 5										
	♦ A 5										
	♣ –										

West will play a second round of diamonds. North will win the trick with the ten and play a club, on which we discard the diamond ace. This way declarer will not get his diamond ruff in dummy: we can overruff.

You may think that declarer selected a losing option at the third trick by ruffing a club. If declarer plays a diamond from dummy, South may find the killing defence and withhold his ace and king, breaking the squeeze. North will win the trick and return a trump. This will be the ending:

Everything under control 3

♠ 9 6		♠ —
♥ K		♥ A J 10
♦ 8		♦ —
♣ —		♣ 10

N
S
W E

♠ —		♠ —
♥ 9 8		♥ —
♦ A		♦ —
♣ K		♣ —

South now holds stoppers in both minors to protect North against pressure.

Why can't the defenders take this line in the original version, after declarer ruffs a club at the third trick? That would lead to the following end position, in which North is squeezed at the eleventh trick in hearts and clubs:

♠ —
♥ Q 7
♦ Q
♣ J

♠ 9 6
♥ K
♦ 8
♣ —

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ —
♥ A J 10
♦ —
♣ 10

♠ —
♥ 9 8
♦ A
♣ —

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 4

Even if we do everything we can, now and then we will lose the battle against a skilful declarer.

Our partner's active bidding allowed us to find the winning defensive option.

EW Vulnerable
Teams

W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♥
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

♠ A 5 3
♥ J 7
♦ J 10
♣ Q 10 9 7 4 3

	N		♠ 9 4 2
W		E	♥ A K 10 6
			♦ K Q 4
	S		♣ J 8 5

Lead ♦J. Partner took the queen with the ace and played the ♣2. West rose with the ace and played the ♠10. The bidding shows that all our partner can have is the ace of diamonds and queen of hearts, and his distribution is obviously 2 – 5 – 5 – 1.

Everything under control 4

If partner had ducked the diamond honour there would have been no problem for the defence, but he had no way to know. It would have been right to win the trick if our hand was:

♠ Q 5 3
 ♥ J 7
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ A 10 9 7 4 3

We cover the spade ten with the ace and return a club for partner to ruff. Will this beat the contract?

Here is the full deal:

♠ K Q J 10 6 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ A K 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> W E </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ A K 10 6 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ J 8 5
---	---	---

♠ 8 7
 ♥ Q 9 8 5 3
 ♦ A 9 8 5 3
 ♣ 2

Part 1: the Tiger

Declarer will produce this four-card ending:

♠ K	♠ –	♠ –
♥ 4 2	♥ J 7	♥ A K 10
♦ 7	♦ –	♦ 4
♣ –	♣ Q 10	♣ –

♠ –	♠ –	♠ –
♥ J 7	♥ A K 10	♥ A K 10
♦ –	♦ 4	♦ 4
♣ Q 10	♣ Q 10	♣ –

South will be squeezed in diamonds and hearts.

The Tiger, however, will foresee this danger and take action to break up the squeeze. After winning the trick with the ♠A, the Tiger will return the seven of hearts and not the jack! Why the seven?

The normal return of the jack of hearts will break up the squeeze, but then South will be subject to an endplay. These cards will remain:

Everything under control 4

♠ —	N	♠ —
♥ 7	W E	♥ A 10
♦ —	S	♦ 4
♣ Q 10		♣ —

♠ —		♠ —
♥ Q 9		♥ —
♦ 9		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —

Partner will be endplayed with a diamond and will have to lead into dummy's heart tenace.

For completeness sake, I should say that the return of the ♥7 will prevent South from being endplayed, but there is still a winning line for declarer! After the heart return, these cards are still alive:

♠ K Q J 6		♠ 5 3	
♥ 4		♥ J	
♦ 7 6		♦ 10	
♣ A 6		♣ Q 10 9 7 4	
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W<div>E</div>S</div> </div>		
		♠ 9 4	
		♥ A 10 6	
		♦ K 4	
		♣ J 8	
		♠ 8	
		♥ Q 9 8 3	
		♦ 9 8 5 3	
		♣ —	

Declarer has two viable options:

1. He can cash a spade winner and concede a club to rectify the count for a squeeze. The defence can counter this line by leading a second round of hearts.
2. He can strip North of spades and hearts and throw him in with the ten of diamonds, forcing him to underlead his queen of clubs. If declarer never gives North the opportunity to discard the $\spadesuit 10$, there is nothing the defence can do. This line of play will allow declarer to win the battle of minds.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 5

A high level of expertise is needed to keep everything under control.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT*	Pass
6♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

* – invitation

	N		♠ K 7 4 2
			♥ K 8 5 3 2
W		E	♦ A Q
	S		♣ A 3
♠ J			
♥ J 9 6 4			
♦ 10 8 4 2			
♣ K 8 7 5			

Lead ♠5. Declarer won the trick with the queen, then played the ace and queen of hearts, partner discarding the ♠3. The ten of hearts was ducked in dummy, North discarding a diamond (signalling an odd number in the suit). A full analysis requires a high level of expertise and understanding of squeezes. We know practically everything about declarer's hand after the first few tricks.

Part 1: the Tiger

♠ A Q x
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ K x x x
 ♣ ? x x

It is essential to draw the correct conclusions from our knowledge.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 10 9 6 5 3	
	♥ 7	
	♦ J 9 3	
	♣ J 9 4 2	
♠ A Q 8		♠ K 7 4 2
♥ A Q 10		♥ K 8 5 3 2
♦ K 7 6 5		♦ A Q
♣ Q 10 6		♣ A 3

	♠ J	
	♥ J 9 6 4	
	♦ 10 8 4 2	
	♣ K 8 7 5	

What will happen if we play passively, returning a heart or diamond as our experience suggests is appropriate? Declarer will produce the following ending:

	♠ 10 9 6	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ J 6	
♠ A 8	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N E S</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	♠ K 7 4
♥ —		♥ —
♦ K 7		♦ —
♣ Q		♣ A 3
	♠ —	
	♥ —	
	♦ 10 8	
	♣ K 8 7	

Declarer will play the king of spades and enter his hand with the ace, which will apply pressure to South and force him to discard two clubs. On the next trick, the king of diamonds will squeeze North in clubs and spades. (Starting with the ♦K and then following with the spade king and ace also works, applying pressure first to North and then to South.) This is a rare non-simultaneous double squeeze. (The classical double squeeze puts pressure on both opponents at the same trick.)

To prevent this, at trick five the Tiger will return a club! This move will break up the squeeze if partner holds the queen of clubs. If declarer has the queen there is the chance that he will misguesses the club position and play the ♣10, which will leave him one trick short. Even if West has ♣Q and no ♣10, he will surely duck the club playing for the club-spade squeeze on North.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 6

Before you make an “obvious” move, analyse the situation carefully.

East’s aggression resulted in a thin game contract being reached.

NS Vulnerable

Pairs

W	N	E	S
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

♠ 7 5 3 2
♥ A 7 4
♦ A 7 2
♣ K Q J

	N		♠ A J
			♥ 2
W		E	♦ J 10 9 8 4
	S		♣ A 10 8 7 4

Lead ♣K. West wins with the ace, partner signalling an even number of clubs, and leads a heart from the dummy. South follows with the ♥9, showing an odd number of cards, and after some academic reflection declarer covers with the jack which you take with the ace. You criticise yourself for the poor opening lead and intend to return a trump. Even though the play seems obvious, you should consider your defence carefully and play only with good reason.

Everything under control 6

At the third trick declarer's hand is highly likely to be 6 – 4 – 2 – 1. We can assume from the bidding that he has a good spade suit. His hesitation in hearts indicates that he has both the king and jack of hearts, making his hand:

♠ K Q 10 9 x x
 ♥ K J ? x
 ♦ x x
 ♣ x

with the ♥10. Why should I assign the ♥10 to declarer? The reason is : South, holding ♥Q 10 9 8 x, would signal with the ten.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 7 5 3 2 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ K Q J										
♠ K Q 10 9 8 6 ♥ K J 10 5 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 9	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A J ♥ 2 ♦ J 10 9 8 4 ♣ A 10 8 7 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 4 ♥ Q 9 8 5 3 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ 6 5 3 2										

Let us analyse the course of play after a trump return. West will ruff a club in hand and then a heart in dummy. He will ruff another club and draw the remaining trumps.

Part 1: the Tiger

With one trump left to be played, this is the position:

♠ 9	♠ 7	♠ –
♥ K 10	♥ 7	♥ –
♦ 6 5	♦ A 7 2	♦ J 10 9 8
♣ –	♣ –	♣ 10

♠ –	♠ –	♠ –
♥ Q 8	♥ Q 8	♥ –
♦ K Q 3	♦ K Q 3	♦ J 10 9 8
♣ –	♣ –	♣ 10

When declarer plays the last spade, South will have problems on his discard. He will have to let go of a diamond and a throw-in position will be created.

Is there anything the defence can do? Before playing a trump, the Tiger will first cash two diamond winners! This will prevent declarer from manoeuvring the throw-in. In my opinion, analysis of this sort, which resembles the approach to a chess problem, is very important in planning the defence.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 7

Before following what seems to be an easy path on defence, draw conclusions from your partner's opening lead.

EW Vulnerable

Teams

W	N	E	S
	2♥*	Pass	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

* – weak two

	N		♠ 8 6 4
			♥ 9 2
W		E	♦ K Q 4
	S		♣ K Q J 10 4
♠ K 3			
♥ K 3			
♦ 10 8 5 2			
♣ A 6 5 3 2			

Lead ♥Q. You overtake with the king, West ducking. Now you cash the club ace, hoping for a void with partner, but everybody follows suit. What next? The problem is more complicated than you think, and already there is nothing you can do.

Part 1: the Tiger

Here is the full deal:

	♠ Q 5 4										
	♥ Q J 10 8 7 4										
	♦ 9 7										
	♣ 8 7										
♠ A J 10 9 2		♠ 8 6 4									
♥ A 6 5		♥ 9 2									
♦ A J 6 3		♦ K Q 4									
♣ 9		♣ K Q J 10 4									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K 3										
	♥ K 3										
	♦ 10 8 5 2										
	♣ A 6 5 3 2										

Shifting to a club was wishful thinking. Partner's lead of the ♥Q should tell us that clubs offer no prospects for the defence. With a club void, partner would have led a lower heart to give you a suit preference message. With a club singleton, he would have led his singleton club.

The Tiger continued hearts at the second trick. Why? To set the game, it is enough to find partner with three trumps to the queen.

Everything under control 7

Declarer won with the ace of hearts and played a club. The key move was made after South won the ace of clubs:

	♠ Q 5 4	
	♥ J 10 8 7	
	♦ 9 7	
	♣ 8	
♠ A J 10 9 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="width: 100px; height: 100px; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%; text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%; text-align: center;">E</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 0; left: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%; text-align: center;">S</div> </div> </div>	♠ 8 6 4
♥ 6		♥ —
♦ A J 6 3		♦ K Q 4
♣ —		♣ K Q J 4
	♠ K 3	
	♥ —	
	♦ 10 8 5 2	
	♣ 6 5 3 2	

The Tiger shifted to the ♠3! West was helpless. This was the only way to catch and kill the prey. Had South not played a spade declarer can discard his heart on dummy's winners and hold himself to one trump loser.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 8

The following situation puts pressure on any partnership's carding agreements.

EW Vulnerable

Teams

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♥
4 ♣	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	5 ♥
Pass*	Pass	5 ♠	All Pass

* – forcing

	N		♠ 9 4 2
			♥ 8 6 3
W		E	♦ K 9 7 4
	S		♣ Q J 3
♠ J 8 7			
♥ A K 10 9 5 4			
♦ A 5 3			
♣ 2			

Lead ♥Q. West ruffs and plays the diamond queen, partner following with the ♦2, suggesting an even number of cards in the suit. You do not really know what is going on. You win the ace and force declarer by playing another heart.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ Q 5	
	♥ Q J 7 2	
	♦ J 10 2	
	♣ 8 7 5 4	
♠ A K 10 6 3	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ 9 4 2
♥ –		♥ 8 6 3
♦ Q 8 6		♦ K 9 7 4
♣ A K 10 9 6		♣ Q J 3
	♠ J 8 7	
	♥ A K 10 9 5 4	
	♦ A 5 3	
	♣ 2	

Now declarer's life was easy. Two rounds of trumps let him arrange for dummy's diamonds to be discarded on the club suit. A diamond was ruffed in dummy; 11 tricks made.

"The Tiger would have ducked the diamond queen," you criticise yourself. After some deeper analysis, you reconsider: ducking would not have helped. Declarer would perhaps work out to draw one round of trumps, play the ace of clubs, enter dummy with the club jack and now if you ruff a club you will only make declarer's life easier. So you discard; and now West will ruff a heart. A third club to the queen, and you have to duck again. Declarer will ruff yet another heart and this will be the final position:

Part 1: the Tiger

	♠ Q	
	♥ J	
	♦ J 10	
	♣ 7	
♠ K	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> S </div>	♠ 9 4
♥ —		♥ —
♦ 8 6		♦ K 9 7
♣ K 10		♣ —
	♠ J 8	
	♥ A	
	♦ A 5	
	♣ —	

Declarer will play the fourth round of clubs, discarding a diamond from the dummy. If you ruff there is nothing you can do. If you duck, West will cash the king of spades and discard the penultimate diamond on the fifth club.

Ingenious solutions are always the simple ones. The Tiger covered the diamond queen with the ace and returned a diamond! What is the key to the problem? Such a return seems to be playing on declarer's suit and experienced bridge players believe that if declarer and a defender both play the same suit on two consecutive tricks, one of them has made a mistake. But partner's following with the ♦2 should help in our analysis. If North actually had an even number of diamonds, declarer's shape would be 6 – 0 – 2 – 5 or 5 – 0 – 4 – 4, which is really not consistent with his line of play.

Could partner's play of the 2 of diamonds discard result from the fact that he had no choice as to his play? If yes, then North's holding in diamonds is ♦ J 10 2, and the diamond return will definitely beat the contract.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 9

If you eliminate the hopeless scenarios for the defence, you will often arrive at the proper solution. But will you have enough perseverance and imagination?

Teams

W	N	E	S
			2♠*
Pass	Pass	3♠**	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

* – 5 spades and 5 of a minor, 7-11 HCP

** – 5 hearts and 5 of a minor, good hand

♠ 5 3
♥ K 8 7 5 4
♦ Q J 9 8
♣ 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q
♥ A 10 9 3 2
♦ A K 7 6 3 2
♣ A

Lead ♠5. Partner wins with the ace and returns the queen of clubs. Declarer plays the ace and king of diamonds, partner following suit twice. On the third round of diamonds South discards the ♠9 (West having discarded two clubs). The ♠9 discard is a strong indication of the possession of a heart honour albeit a singleton.

What will be your line of defence?

Part 1: the Tiger

Here is the complete deal:

	♠ 5 3										
	♥ K 8 7 5 4										
	♦ Q J 9 8										
	♣ 6 4										
♠ K 10 6 4 2	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J 6		♥ A 10 9 3 2									
♦ 5		♦ A K 7 6 3 2									
♣ K 7 5 3 2		♣ A									
	♠ A J 9 8 7										
	♥ Q										
	♦ 10 4										
	♣ Q J 10 9 8										

Playing a club will not lead to success. West will take it, cash the king of spades and arrive at the following final position:

♠ —		♠ —									
♥ K 8 7 5 4		♥ A 10 9									
♦ Q		♦ 7 6 3									
♣ —		♣ —									
♠ 10 6 4	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J 6											
♦ —											
♣ 7											
♠ J 8											
♥ Q											
♦ —											
♣ J 10 9											

He may play the jack of hearts, and guess to overtake with dummy's ace, then concede a diamond trick. The third round of hearts will provide an entry to the established diamonds.

Everything under control 9

So instead of playing a club, after winning the diamond trick you return a heart. South will win with the queen of hearts, West following with the jack, and having no better option, will exit with a club.

West will cash the king of spades and reach this five-card ending:

	♠ –	
	♥ K 8 7 5	
	♦ Q	
	♣ –	
♠ 10 6 4	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N S</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	♠ –
♥ 6		♥ A 10
♦ –		♦ 7 6 3
♣ 7		♣ –
	♠ J 8	
	♥ –	
	♦ –	
	♣ J 10 9	

Declarer will finesse the heart and exit with a diamond, bringing the contract home.

Part 1: the Tiger

Let us go back to the point at which the Tiger was on lead after declarer played three rounds of diamonds:

	♠ 3										
	♥ K 8 7 5 4										
	♦ Q										
	♣ 6										
♠ K 10 6 4 ♥ J 6 ♦ – ♣ K 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ – ♥ A 10 9 3 2 ♦ 7 6 3 ♣ –
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J 8 7										
	♥ Q										
	♦ –										
	♣ J 10 9 8										

The Tiger returns the king of hearts! All roads now lead to only eight tricks for declarer.

- a) Declarer can win with the ace of hearts and unblock the heart jack, but will have to concede the ace of spades, two diamonds and two hearts.
- b) Declarer ducks the king of hearts, arriving at the same result.
- c) Declarer wins the ace of hearts and enters his hand with the jack of hearts. The throw-in on South will yield eight tricks from the end-play in spades – but no more.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL 10

After an aggressive auction with all the players joining in, the final contract was doubled by the Tiger rather too prematurely.

Teams

W	N	E	S
	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Dbl
4♣	Dbl	All Pass	

♠ K J 8 7 6 2

♥ A

♦ 8 6

♣ Q 7 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 10 9

♥ 7 2

♦ Q 9 3 2

♣ A 9 5

Lead ♦8. Partner overtook with the ten and played the diamond ace. West ruffed with the ♣8 and played the king of hearts. You won with the ace and exited with a spade. Declarer slightly nervously inserted the nine, breathed a sigh of relief when it held, and now entered his hand with the king of clubs, South following with the ♣4.

The Tiger pondered the hand. Why?

♠ 5 3		♠ K J 8 7 6 2	
♥ K Q J 5 3		♥ A	
♦ 7		♦ 8 6	
♣ K J 10 8 3		♣ Q 7 6 2	
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W<div>E</div>S</div> </div>		
			♠ A Q 10 9
			♥ 7 2
			♦ Q 9 3 2
			♣ A 9 5
		♠ 4	
		♥ 10 9 8 6 4	
		♦ A K J 10 5 4	
		♣ 4	

♠ 5		♠ K J 8 7 6
♥ Q J 5 3		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ J 10 3		♣ Q 7 2
	<div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div> </div> </div>	
		♠ A Q 10
		♥ 7
		♦ Q 9
		♣ A 9
		♠ —
		♥ 10 9 8 6
		♦ K J 5 4
		♣ —

The Tiger, following a consistent approach, now played the ♣7 on the club jack, South discarding a diamond. Declarer continued with a spade to dummy's ten and cashed the club ace, unblocking the ten from hand. The Tiger followed with the queen of clubs! A heart to the queen was followed by the jack of hearts, North refusing to ruff. Now on declarer's intended throw-in with the ♣3, the Tiger followed with the carefully preserved two of clubs. South had the last two tricks.

This is another example of the importance of a chess analysis. North had to foresee the course of events all the way up to the eleventh trick and meticulously unblock his trump suit to avoid the endplay.

ACTIVE 1

Some of the logic behind successful defensive manoeuvres is very difficult to explain, and we are not always able to articulate the full plan even in the post-mortem.

The bidding on this deal did not suggest any especially thrilling plays to come.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

* – inverted minors

	N		♠ Q 3 2
			♥ A 8 6
W		E	♦ K Q 10 3
	S		♣ J 9 4
♠ J 5 4			
♥ 5 3 2			
♦ A 7 2			
♣ Q 8 7 6			

Lead ♥4 (4th best). West won with the ace, following with the ten from his hand, and played a spade to the ten. After winning the trick with the king of spades, partner continued the attack on hearts, which resulted in 10 tricks for declarer.

Active 1

This was the full deal:

	♠ K 7 6										
	♥ J 9 7 4										
	♦ 6 5										
	♣ K 5 3 2										
♠ A 10 9 8		♠ Q 3 2									
♥ K Q 10		♥ A 8 6									
♦ J 9 8 4		♦ K Q 10 3									
♣ A 10		♣ J 9 4									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J 5 4										
	♥ 5 3 2										
	♦ A 7 2										
	♣ Q 8 7 6										

The Tiger was quick in his analysis. Declarer's hand must be:

♠ H x x x
 ♥ K Q 10
 ♦ ? x x x
 ♣ H x

Why?

The opening lead and play to the first trick locates the ♥KQ in declarer's hand. The remaining key honours are the ♠AK and ♣AK. Declarer can only have two of them – with three he would have opened the bidding 1NT – and given his 2NT rebid he is likely to have an honour in both clubs and spades.

Partner's lead of the ♥2 also tells us the distribution of the major suits. He has exactly four hearts so he cannot also have four spades, as he would almost certainly have opted to lead from ace-fourth or king-fourth of spades before the jack-fourth of hearts. Therefore the four card spade suit is in declarer's hand – a fact confirmed to us by declarer's play to trick two. Declarer is left

Part 1: the Tiger

with six minor suit cards: 4-2 pattern is the only possible distribution in light of the $1\spadesuit$ opening and 2NT rebid.

Knowing declarer's hand so precisely, it is clear to the Tiger that West has decided to play on his seven-card spade fit before his eight-card diamond fit, in an effort to protect his club holding from an attack by South. But it is the defender's task to mislead him.

In order to prevent declarer from making the safety play, when declarer leads a low spade from dummy at trick two, the Tiger will rise with the spade jack! This is a difficult play to make without a clear picture of declarer's hand, as against a different location of honours it risks making declarer's life much easier. What do we stand to gain?

Declarer may imagine that the layout is follows:

	♠ 7 6 5 4	
	♥ J 9 6 4	
	♦ A 5	
	♣ K 5 3	
♠ A 10 9 8		♠ Q 3 2
♥ K Q 10		♥ A 8 6
♦ J 9 8 4		♦ K Q 10 3
♣ A 10		♣ J 9 4
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K J	
	♥ 5 3 2	
	♦ 7 6 2	
	♣ Q 8 7 6 2	

Active 1

If he continues with a second round of spades, South will gain the lead and play a club through the ♣A10. However, a switch to diamonds by declarer will save the contract since South will be kept off lead until it is too late for the defence.

Of course on the actual layout it is the diamond switch that gives South the lead, enabling the defence to profitably attack clubs.

ACTIVE 2

We may find ourselves following suit mindlessly from time to time. However, the Tiger will try to hunt even if there is no prey around.

Teams

W	N	E	S
2♣*	Pass	2♦**	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	All Pass

* – game forcing

** – waiting (less than 2 controls; A = 2, K = 1)

♠ 9 6 2
♥ A 9 8 6 4
♦ 5 2
♣ Q 10 4

	N		♠ 10 8 7 5 4
W		E	♥ J 5 2
			♦ J 6
	S		♣ 9 8 6

Lead ♥A. Partner signalled an even number of cards and West followed with the king. You continue with a heart. After ruffing this, declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs, entered the dummy with the diamond jack, and finessed in spades. Next board, please.

Here comes the full deal:

	♠ 9 6 2	
	♥ A 9 8 6 4	
	♦ 5 2	
	♣ Q 10 4	
♠ A Q ♥ K ♦ A K Q 10 3 ♣ A K J 3 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; padding: 5px;"> S </div>	♠ 10 8 7 5 4 ♥ J 5 2 ♦ J 6 ♣ 9 8 6
	♠ K J 3	
	♥ Q 10 7 3	
	♦ 9 8 7 4	
	♣ 7 5	

The Tiger followed to the ace of clubs with the ten!

New information about the defenders' distributions or honour location often causes declarer to adjust his initial line of play. This was the case here. When the ten of clubs fell from North on the first trump trick, West was compelled to reconsider the hand. He considered two possibilities:

1. Clubs break 4-1 with the four-card holding in South. If this is the case, cashing the club king would be a losing option. After entering dummy with the jack of diamonds, it looks better to finesse the trump queen, giving up a heart and a spade.
2. Clubs break 3-2 with the queen-ten doubleton in North. Again, we enter dummy with the jack of diamonds and finesse the club queen. After an unsuccessful finesse, North will force us again with a heart. We shall ruff the third diamond with the eight of clubs in the dummy and finesse the spade king.

With the winning line of play being the same in either case, declarer diligently crossed to dummy with the jack of diamonds and finessed the queen of clubs. But after winning the club queen North exited with his last trump and declarer was forced to win and play spades from his hand.

Did declarer make a mistake? In my opinion, the analysis was correct and declarer's line of play was perfect (unless North is such a good defender that he would always find this play). This is clear evidence of how rarely defenders select cards that could be misleading to the declarer. As a result many interesting hands are considered unremarkable and unchallenging.

TIGER'S EYE

Two protruding eyes with round pupils give tigers a wide field of vision.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

♠ A Q 8 7 2
 ♥ K J 3
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ 9 8 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 5
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ A Q J 10 4
 ♣ A Q 10 3

Lead ♣8. West won with the ace, partner signalling odd number of clubs, and played the ♥9, letting it run. You won with the jack and continued clubs. Declarer ruffed, entered the dummy with a diamond, and repeated the heart finesse. After winning the trick, all you could do was to cash the ace of spades.

♠ A Q 8 7 2
♥ K J 3
♦ 7 3
♣ 9 8 2

♠ K 10 3
♥ A Q 10 6 4 2
♦ K 8 2
♣ 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 4
♥ 7 5
♦ 9 6 5
♣ K J 7 6 5

♠ 6 5
♥ 9 8
♦ A Q J 10 4
♣ A Q 10 3

ANALYSIS

The bidding and partner's count signal at the first trick revealed declarer's shape: 3 – 6 – 3 – 1. A 2 – 6 – 4 – 1 pattern is unlikely given South's simple raise in spades when holding such good clubs. We can easily read the honours in West's hand because of the fact that South did not double the 3♠ bid: he must have something very much like this.

♠ K x x
♥ A Q 10 x x x
♦ K x x
♣ x

A passive return when on lead with the ♥J will produce a poor result for the defenders. Therefore we must look to the spade suit. What are our options?

- a) The ace of spades. This is not a good idea.
- b) A small spade. For this to be successful, we would need to find partner with the J 10 x. Why is the ten necessary? If declarer has it, he will take partner's jack with the king and return the ten. We shall face an insoluble problem: we must either give away our natural trump trick, or allow declarer to ruff his third spade.
- c) The queen of spades. This is the best return: all we need is for partner to have the J x x. Partner will win the second spade trick with the jack and play a second round of hearts.

The theory of such an analysis is related to the theme of Ockham's Razor. We must look for the defence that requires the least from our partner's hand to succeed.

KILLER 1

The tiger has the strong jaw and long teeth that are characteristic of the larger carnivores. The tiger closes its jaws upon the victim's throat, killing it in no time. Then it tears the animal apart.

Teams

W	N	E	S
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

N	♠ 8
W E	♥ A 10 9 8 3
S	♦ A
	♣ A Q J 10 8 5
♠ A J 5	
♥ Q 7 5 2	
♦ 8 6	
♣ K 6 3 2	

Lead ♦J. West wins with the ace and plays the ace and queen of clubs. You duck, then win the club continuation, partner pitching a discouraging spade and signalling heart values. You dutifully exit with a heart. Declarer wins your partner's jack with the ace, cashes his club winners, and plays a spade. You rise with the ace and your side cashes two heart winners. Result: 9 tricks.

Killer 1

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 7 6 4 3										
	♥ K J 6										
	♦ J 10 9 4										
	♣ 9 7										
♠ K Q 10 9 2	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 4		♥ A 10 9 8 3									
♦ K Q 7 5 3 2		♦ A									
♣ 4		♣ A Q J 10 8 5									
	♠ A J 5										
	♥ Q 7 5 2										
	♦ 8 6										
	♣ K 6 3 2										

At the other table, the play to the first ten tricks was identical. You arrived at this position after rising with the ace of spades and playing a heart to partner's king:

♠ K		♠ 7	
♥ —		♥ 6	
♦ K Q		♦ 10	
♣ —		♣ —	

The lead is with North, who plays the ♥6. The Tiger ducked the ♥10! He won the heart continuation and in the two-card ending West had to guess which king to keep. Whether he got it right is not important – the defenders had done their best.

KILLER 2

Although tigers prefer hunting big hoofed mammals such as buffalo or wild pigs, they will also attack young elephants or rhinos which have strayed from the protection of the herd.

NS Vulnerable
Pairs

W	N	E	S
1NT*	All	Pass	

* – 15 – 17 HCP

	N		♠ K J 10 9
			♥ Q 10 7 5
W		E	♦ Q 8
	S		♣ 10 9 7

♠ A Q 7
♥ K 9 3
♦ 9 7 6 4
♣ 8 4 3

Lead ♣K and ♣Q suggesting a strong suit and asking for an unblock or count. West ducks the king and wins the club continuation, then exits with a spade to the nine. South wins with the queen, cashes three club winners and declarer claims the contract.

Killer 3

	♠ 6 5 2	
	♥ J 8 4	
	♦ 10 2	
	♣ K Q J 6 5	
♠ 8 4 3	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div>N</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div>S</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	♠ K J 10 9
♥ A 6 2		♥ Q 10 7 5
♦ A K J 3 5		♦ Q 8
♣ A 2		♣ 10 9 7
	♠ A Q 7	
	♥ K 9 3	
	♦ 9 7 6 4	
	♣ 8 4 3	

The Tiger won the first spade with the ace and returned the ♥9! Why?

South knew that his partner could not have much more than his established clubs. He lay the groundwork for his defence at the first trick, when he showed a false number of clubs by following with the ♣3. It is no wonder that declarer, believing that South was also out of clubs, won the heart return with the ace and finessed the spade. The Tiger won the trick and now played his third club. After cashing his club winners, North played a heart. West, thinking that the defenders were making a fool of him, angrily rose with the queen. Setting the contract by two tricks yielded 54%.

Why only 54%? The most commonly played contract in the tournament was 3NT, which also failed by two tricks.

Part 1: the Tiger

Can we criticise West's line of play? From his point of view, the whole deal was as follows:

	♠ Q 5 2										
	♥ K 8 4										
	♦ 2										
	♣ K Q J 6 5 4										
♠ 8 4 3	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 10 9
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A 6 2		♥ Q 10 7 5									
♦ A K J 5 3		♦ Q 8									
♣ A 2		♣ 10 9 7									
	♠ A 7 6										
	♥ J 9 3										
	♦ 10 9 7 6 4										
	♣ 8 3										

Would North have passed over West's 1NT opening? Should declarer have cashed his seven winners and secured the contract? That is a totally different question.

KILLER 3

The tiger's best moves on defence are marked with masterly precision.

The fact that both North and South got into the bidding did not prevent their opponents from bidding game.

Teams

W	N	E	S
	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

* – weak in hearts or spades

	N		♠ 10 5
			♥ 7 2
W		E	♦ Q J 8 7
	S		♣ Q J 8 4 3
	♠ A 6 4 2		
	♥ K		
	♦ A 9 5 4 2		
	♣ 7 6 5		

Lead ♥6 (4th best). Your king holds the trick and you switch to a diamond trying to cut declarer's communication with the dummy. West rises with the king, cashes the ace and king of clubs, partner showing three, and returns a diamond, partner following with the ♦10. You win.

Part 1: the Tiger

Declarer's distribution is clear: 5 – 4 – 2 – 2. What about the honour location? When declarer played on clubs, North, holding the 10 9 2, played the ten and then the two, which does not invite a spade return (♣10 – an odd number of cards; ♣2– suit preference). An excellent thought occurred to you: why not play the spade ace and a second spade? This move cuts declarer's communications, regardless of partner's spade holding.

Excellent analysis, but is it good enough?

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 9 7	
	♥ A J 8 6 4 3	
	♦ 10 3	
	♣ 10 9 2	
♠ K Q J 8 3		♠ 10 5
♥ Q 10 9 5		♥ 7 2
♦ K 6		♦ Q J 8 7
♣ A K		♣ Q J 8 4 3
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A 6 4 2	
	♥ K	
	♦ A 9 5 4 2	
	♣ 7 6 5	

Killer 3

After cashing the ace of spades, the following cards remain:

	♠ 9										
	♥ A J 8 4 3										
	♦ —										
	♣ 10										
♠ K Q J 3		♠ 10									
♥ Q 10 9		♥ 7									
♦ —		♦ Q 8									
♣ —		♣ Q J 8									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 6 4 2										
	♥ —										
	♦ 9 5 4										
	♣ 5										

When you exit with a small spade declarer faces an awkward choice: should he win the trick in the dummy where there are two losing tricks, or in his hand which also has two losers? Alas, the opponents also have good ideas sometimes. West played the eight of spades under the ace, then won the jack and cashed the queen, discarding a red suit loser from dummy.

Are you the Tiger? Did you keep the two of spades? If your last spade is the four or six, declarer will exit with the ♠3 and throw you in to lead a minor suit to the dummy and concede the contract.

ANALYTICAL 1

The Tiger chooses the best possible variation after carefully analysing all the options.

Teams

W	N	E	S
			1NT* ¹
Pass	2NT* ²	Dbl	3NT* ³
4♥	All Pass		

*¹ – 12-14 HCP

*² – both minors

*³ – good fits in both minors

	N		♠ A Q J 7 4
W		E	♥ Q 5
			♦ K J 4 3
	S		♣ K J
♠ 8 6			
♥ A J 2			
♦ A Q 10 7			
♣ Q 10 9 8			

Lead ♠10. The ♠10 is either from the 10 x, 109x or from K 10 9.

Declarer won dummy's jack of spades and played the queen of hearts. You won with the ace and exited with a club. Partner took the ace and played a diamond, but declarer found the jack of hearts and brought the contract home.

♠ 5 3 2
♥ K 10 9 8 7 6 3
♦ 5
♣ 4 2

ANALYTICAL 2

The Tiger not only hunts but also tries to avoid being a victim. Defensive play against complicated squeezes requires a precise analysis.

The bidding was unrevealing.

Pairs

W	N	E	S
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4NT**	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

* – no 4 cards in majors

** – invitational

♠ Q 10 8 6 3
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ Q 9 7
 ♣ 5 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 7 4 2
 ♥ A Q 6 5
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ K J 2

Lead ♣4. Declarer won in the dummy as South followed with the ♣6 to suggest an even number, and played a heart to the jack. Pleased to have won an unexpected trick, you safely return a club.

Analytical 2

Here comes the full deal:

	♠ Q 10 8 6 3	
	♥ K 3	
	♦ Q 9 7	
	♣ 5 4 3	
♠ A K	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> S </div>	♠ J 7 4 2
♥ J 4 2		♥ A Q 6 5
♦ A K 5		♦ 8 3
♣ A Q 10 9 7		♣ K J 2
	♠ 9 5	
	♥ 10 9 8 7	
	♦ J 10 6 4 2	
	♣ 8 6	

In no time at all, West had run his clubs and produced the following ending:

	♠ Q 10	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q 9 7	
	♣ —	
♠ —	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> S </div>	♠ J
♥ 4 2		♥ A Q 6
♦ A K 5		♦ 8 3
♣ 10		♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ 10 9 8	
	♦ J 10 6	
	♣ —	

The double squeeze was simple to execute. On the final club a diamond was discarded from dummy and South had to let go of a diamond. Now the heart honours squeezed North in diamonds and spades.

Part 1: the Tiger

The Tiger also made the opening lead of a club, and West played a heart to the jack. After winning the king of hearts, the Tiger made a far-sighted chess-like analysis. What will happen at the tenth trick? West can have one of the two following hands:

a) 3 – 3 – 2 – 5

♠ A K 2

♥ J 4 2

♦ A K

♣ A Q 10 9 7

b) 2 – 3 – 3 – 5

♠ A K

♥ J 4 2

♦ A K 5

♣ A Q 10 9 7

In variant a), nothing will help declarer – the contract cannot be made.

In variant b), North and South will be caught in a double squeeze. Is there anything that can be done to avoid it?

Yes, the Tiger played a diamond, cutting communication for the squeeze.

	♠ Q 10	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q 9	
	♣ —	
♠ —	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N S</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	♠ J
♥ 4 2		♥ A Q 6
♦ A 5		♦ 8
♣ 10		♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ 10 9 8	
	♦ J 6	
	♣ —	

Declarer had now arrived at a similar ending, but one in which the dummy, short of a comfortable discard, was squeezed first.

PREDATORY 1

Outstanding bridge players have power at the table. I remember a story about an Italian match entitled *Belladonna Knocks-Out the Opponents*. My bridge idol had power without any doubt.

The bidding here had revealed declarer's shape.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠**	Pass	6♠	All Pass

* – 5 – 4 – 2 – 2 shape; minimum

** – 2 out of 5 keycards and the ♠Q

♠ K 5
♥ Q J 9 3
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ J 9 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 9 8
♥ K 5
♦ A K 7 6
♣ A K 10 5

Lead ♦3. West won with the king, then played three rounds of hearts ruffing the third in the dummy. This was followed by the ace of diamonds, the ace and king of clubs, and a diamond ruffed with the ♠7. Another heart was ruffed in the dummy; partner was also out of hearts but unfortunately had no trump higher

Predatory 1

After the first few tricks, the Tiger could easily visualize declarer's hand. West was unlikely to have the queen in either minor suit as he would have selected a different line of play: one round of trumps, the king and ace of hearts followed by a heart ruff, and the third heart pitched on a minor.

Here is the full deal:

♠ A Q J 7 2		♠ K 5									
♥ A 10 8 4		♥ Q J 9 3									
♦ J 4		♦ 10 8 5 3									
♣ 3 2		♣ J 9 8									
	<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ 10 9 8									
		♥ K 5									
		♦ A K 7 6									
		♣ A K 10 5									
		♠ 6 4 3									
		♥ 7 6 2									
		♦ Q 9 2									
		♣ Q 7 6 4									

The Tiger concluded that only 21st century bridge techniques could defeat this seemingly cold contract. Let us review the course of events:

North led the $\spadesuit 3$. West won the king, then played the king of hearts and a heart to the ace, ruffing the third round of hearts.

The Tiger – attention, please! – followed with the jack and queen on the second and third round of hearts! The ♥10 was now established, and all declarer had to do was draw trumps. West played the ♠10, finessing against the king, and it held the trick.

Part 1: the Tiger

He overtook the next spade in hand with the jack and ... was struck speechless. The Tiger won with the king and played a heart, ruffed by his partner. You may say, "It is impossible for this to happen at the table." Well, actually it did happen at the table. I am learning my lesson in humility – so no names, no pack-drill.

You have to own the table to be able to find this kind of defence.

You may say that declarer could make his contract by winning the second round of trumps with the ace. True, but it is practically impossible not to fall into the trap set by North, who first gave a false picture in hearts and then ducked the king of spades. Losing a sure overtrick, even in a match, is painful for any player.

PREDATORY 2

The tiger tears out the throat of its large prey and wait until its victims dies.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣ ^{*1}	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠ ^{*2}	Pass
3 ♣ ^{*3}	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

*1 – waiting bid

*2 – game forcing with a spade fit

*3 – fragment bid

♠ 8 7
♥ A J 5 4 3
♦ 9 8
♣ A K J 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 4
♥ K Q 2
♦ K Q J 2
♣ 7 6 4

Lead ♣A. Partner signalled an odd number of cards with the ♣9. You cannot expect any help from partner. All of the missing honours must be with declarer. Many players would probably have overcalled with your hand, but try to take advantage of having passed over the 1 ♠ opening.

ANALYSIS

West has precisely revealed his distribution in course of the bidding. We may easily assume declarer's hand to be as follows:

♠ A Q x x x
 ♥ x
 ♦ A x x x
 ♣ Q 10 x

Declarer will make his contract easily unless we come up with an imaginative defence.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 8 7										
	♥ A J 5 4 3										
	♦ 9 8										
	♣ A K J 3										
♠ A Q 10 9 5 ♥ 9 ♦ A 10 6 5 ♣ Q 10 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 4 ♥ K Q 2 ♦ K Q J 2 ♣ 7 6 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 6 3 2										
	♥ 10 8 7 6										
	♦ 7 4 3										
	♣ 9 8 5										

After winning the first trick with the club ace, the Tiger played the heart jack! The clever declarer ducked the trick in dummy, counting on South to be taking a nap and thus to forget to overtake. Now a predatory North will switch to a passive diamond or spade and wait for the two tricks that belong to him. If West covers the jack with an honour, the Tiger will not lose anything. "No success hunting," he will complain. But there will be a next time!

PREDATORY 3

Despite its heavy weight, the Tiger walks lightly and makes many movements that seem to be pointless, but have an ulterior motive.

Teams

W	N	E	S
			1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbl**	All Pass	

* – strong club; the 1♦ response is weak

** – negative (5-6 HCP)

♠ 9 5 2
♥ 2
♦ Q 10 7 6 5
♣ K 10 9 2

	N		♠ J
W		E	♥ J 9 5 4
	S		♦ 9 8 4 2
			♣ J 8 4 3

Lead ♥2. South won with the ace and exited with the ♣7. Declarer should probably play the queen from hand in order to reach dummy with the jack on the next trick, but he followed with a small one and you could think of nothing better to do than play the ♣K and return another club. West won in hand and helplessly played a spade to the jack in the dummy. Partner won with the queen, cashed the heart king, and exited with a heart. You ruffed and led a club for partner to ruff.

Part 1: the Tiger

The following ending had been reached with South on lead:

♠ K 10 7 6	♠ 9		
♥ —	♥ —		
♦ K J	♦ Q 10 7 6		
♣ —	♣ 10		
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>		
	♠ A 8		♠ —
	♥ 7 6		♥ J
	♦ A 3		♦ 9 8 4 2
	♣ —		♣ J

Another heart followed, West erring by ruffing with the ♠10. It would have been better to discard a diamond. Declarer exited with a low spade, putting North on lead, and won two of the last five tricks. Result: down three. Although the defenders did well to capitalize on declarer's poor play, they could have been even more relentless.

On declarer's ♠10, the Tiger, sitting North, played the nine of trumps! West had to play a spade. Because North had unblocked the nine, South won the trick with the eight, cashed the spade ace, and returned his last heart. West ruffed and had to play diamonds from his hand for down four.

Predatory 3

Here comes the full deal:

	♠ 9 5 2										
	♥ 2										
	♦ Q 10 7 6 5										
	♣ K 10 9 2										
♠ K 10 7 6 4		♠ J									
♥ Q 10 8		♥ J 9 5 4									
♦ K J		♦ 9 8 4 2									
♣ A Q 6		♣ J 8 4 3									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A Q 8 3										
	♥ A K 7 6 3										
	♦ A 3										
	♣ 7 5										

I am delighted with this beautiful unblock of the ♠9. It shows full awareness at the table.

TIGER – NOT A CALF

The calf does not think. He mindlessly follows the routine line of play. The Tiger concentrates hard and is prepared to bend the rules.

You opened in third position with a slightly weaker hand than usual, but this did not prevent the opponents from arriving in 3NT.

Teams

W	N	E	S
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

♠ K Q 10 8 3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K J 6
 ♣ 10 9 7 6

	N		♠ 5 4
			♥ A 6 5 4
W		E	♦ A Q 5
	S		♣ A K Q 8

Lead ♠K. Declarer ducked, South signalling an even number of cards. You guessed to switch to the queen of hearts, declarer ducking again. At the third trick, you passively played the ♣6. West won with dummy's ace and played the ace of diamonds! Somewhat surprised, you simply followed suit. West entered his hand with the jack of clubs and played another diamond. You won with the king and played a club.

The full hand:

	♠ K Q 10 8 3	
	♥ Q	
	♦ K J 6	
	♣ 10 9 7 6	
♠ A J 9 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ 5 4
♥ 10 9 2		♥ A 6 5 4
♦ 10 4 2		♦ A Q 5
♣ J 4 2		♣ A K Q 8
	♠ 7 6	
	♥ K J 8 7 3	
	♦ 9 8 7 3	
	♣ 5 3	

Declarer won the club in dummy and cashed the ♦Q to arrive at this ending:

	♠ Q 10 8 3	
	♥ –	
	♦ –	
	♣ 10	
♠ A J 9	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ 5
♥ 10 9		♥ A 6 5
♦ –		♦ –
♣ –		♣ K
	♠ 7	
	♥ K J 7	
	♦ 9	
	♣ –	

West now played the king of clubs, discarding a heart from his hand, and followed up with the ace of hearts. Now a spade to the nine endplayed North. This was excellent declarer play. Cashing the ace of diamonds was an ingenious move; why?

Part 1: the Tiger

Let us imagine a slightly different layout, with the diamond jack in the South hand:

	♠ K Q 10 8 3	
	♥ Q	
	♦ K 9 6	
	♣ 10 9 7 6	
♠ A J 9 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> N E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> W S </div>	♠ 5 4
♥ 10 9 2		♥ A 6 5 4
♦ 10 4 2		♦ A Q 5
♣ J 4 2		♣ A K Q 8
	♠ 7 6	
	♥ K J 8 7 3	
	♦ J 8 7 3	
	♣ 5 3	

Declarer ducked the opening lead of the ♠K. North switched to the ♥Q, also ducked, and exited with a club. If declarer wins the club in hand and takes the diamond finesse without first cashing the diamond ace, he will not be successful. Unblocking the diamond king under the ace should not be too difficult for North.

The ingenious move of cashing the diamond ace allowed declarer to endplay North. However, North could have protected himself. Like a tiger, he should have thrown the king of diamonds under the ace. How would that help?

Declarer now has to guess the position of the jack of diamonds. There are two possibilities:

1. North has the jack of diamonds, giving him the following hand:

♠ K Q 10 8 3
♥ Q
♦ K J 6
♣ 10 9 7 6

After North throws the diamond king under the ace, declarer can bring the contract home by entering his hand with the club jack and playing a diamond towards the queen.

- a) If North plays the jack, declarer can finish with an overtrick.
- b) If North follows low, declarer plays the queen and concedes a diamond trick. Next, a simple club elimination allows declarer to endplay North into leading into West's spade tenace.

2. South has the jack of diamonds.

In this case, after cashing the diamond ace (on which North follows with the king), declarer must cash the three remaining clubs and arrive at this position:

	♠ Q 10 8 3										
	♥ –										
	♦ 9 6										
	♣ –										
♠ A J 9 ♥ 10 ♦ 10 4 ♣ –	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 5 ♥ A 6 5 ♦ Q 5 ♣ –
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 7										
	♥ K J 8										
	♦ J 8										
	♣ –										

After playing a spade to the ace and a heart to the ace, declarer can endplay South with a heart.

Part 1: the Tiger

Let us go back to our original hand:

♠ A J 9 2	♠ K Q 10 8 3	
♥ 10 9 2	♥ Q	
♦ 10 4 2	♦ K J 6	
♣ J 4 2	♣ 10 9 7 6	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ 7 6	♠ 5 4
	♥ K J 8 7 3	♥ A 6 5 4
	♦ 9 8 7 3	♦ A Q 5
	♣ 5 3	♣ A K Q 8

When we play the king under the ace of diamonds, declarer misguesses and decides to play South for the jack of diamonds. When he attempts to endplay South with a heart, the return of the ♦9 solves the defences' problems.

The play of the ♦K under the ace is extremely difficult to find, even with all four hands in sight. Executing this type of manoeuvre requires a chess-like approach to the defence: one must examine each move carefully to uncover declarer's plan and then visualise a way to counter it.

TIGER – THE CONNOISSEUR

It is time to present a deal for the connoisseur. The degree of difficulty makes this type of problem more fit for home analysis than for trying to solve at the bridge table.

The bidding does not suggest any thrills to come.

Teams

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

♠ 8 6 5
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ K 9 5 4 3
 ♣ A 10 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 3
 ♥ A 10 5
 ♦ 10 8 2
 ♣ K Q 7 5

Lead ♠5. West won in hand, South following with the ♠4, and played a club. You ducked; declarer won the ♣K in dummy and partner signalled an even number of clubs. Declarer entered his hand with the queen of spades, South playing the ♠2, and led another club.

For the first time, the Tiger paused to consider his next move. What conclusion did he reach?

TIGER'S ANALYSIS

The defensive chances looked slim. "Partner's play in spades (high-low) was not count but suit-preference. It discouraged a shift to diamonds, so declarer must have the ace." The Tiger imagined that the complete hand was as follows:

	♠ 8 6 5										
	♥ 3 2										
	♦ K 9 5 4 3										
	♣ A 10 3										
♠ A Q 10 9 7 ♥ x x x x ♦ A x ♣ x x	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 3 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ K Q 7 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ x x										
	♥ K Q J 9										
	♦ Q J x										
	♣ J x x x										

"I shall win with the ace of clubs and play a third trump," thought the Tiger. "If I do not play on trumps, West will ruff his fourth heart." However, this will not help. South can discard a diamond on the third spade but will have no good discard on the fourth round of trumps. South will be caught in a three-suit squeeze.

The Tiger continued his analysis. “Perhaps I should duck the second round of clubs.” Declarer will ruff a club and give up a heart trick. This will be the final position:

♠ A 10	♠ 8	
♥ x x x	♥ 3	
♦ A x	♦ K 9 5 4 3	
♣ –	♣ –	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ –	♠ K
	♥ K Q 9	♥ A 5
	♦ Q J x	♦ 10 8 2
	♣ J	♣ 7

South will play the diamond queen. West will cover with the ace and enter dummy with the ace of hearts to discard a diamond on the fourth club. This will cut the defensive communications to continue playing on trumps and declarer will be able to ruff the fourth heart in the dummy.

The Tiger decided to reconsider his initial premise. “If there is no winning defence if declarer has the diamond ace, I must assume that partner has it, despite his discouraging signal. Why would he not want to cash two diamond tricks?”

“He must be afraid of a club-heart squeeze. That means the king of hearts with declarer.”

Part 1: the Tiger

Accordingly the Tiger imagined a somewhat different hand for declarer:

♠ A Q 10 9 7
 ♥ K x x x
 ♦ Q x
 ♣ x x

This was the actual deal:

♠ A Q 10 9 7 ♥ K 7 6 4 ♦ Q 7 ♣ 9 8	♠ 8 6 5 ♥ 3 2 ♦ K 9 5 4 3 ♣ A 10 3	N W E S	♠ K J 3 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ K Q 7 5
♠ 4 2 ♥ Q J 9 8 ♦ A J 6 ♣ J 6 4 2			

Indeed, winning the club ace and cashing two diamond winners would produce the following ending:

	♠ 8	
	♥ 3 2	
	♦ 9 5 3	
	♣ 10	
♠ A 10 9 ♥ K 7 6 4 ♦ – ♣ –	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> S </div>	♠ K ♥ A 10 5 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 7
	♠ –	
	♥ Q J 9 8	
	♦ J	
	♣ J 6	

With the lead being in North (or even in South), there is no continuation that will prevent South from being squeezed:

- a) a diamond return leads to a simple heart-club squeeze;
- b) playing a club or a trump leads to a squeeze in three suits;
- c) after a heart return, a more complicated three-suit squeeze arises:

Part 1: the Tiger

♠ 10 9		♠ —
♥ 7 6 4		♥ A 5
♦ —		♦ 10
♣ —		♣ Q 7

Deep in thought, the Tiger continued his considerations. After winning the club ace, a heart or club return will not be productive either. Declarer will discard two diamonds on two clubs, cutting the defensive communications for playing on trumps, and will easily ruff the fourth heart.

The Tiger could not find a killing defence. He now let the process of elimination determine his play. “Since I can’t find a winning line after rising with the club ace, I must duck the club again. If partner does have the ♦A, perhaps something good will happen.”

The final position is shown below:

♠ A 10 9	♠ 8		♠ K
♥ K 7 6 4	♥ 3 2		♥ A 10 5
♦ Q 7	♦ K 9 5 4 3		♦ 10 8 2
♣ –	♣ A		♣ 7 5
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>		
	♠ –		
	♥ Q J 9 8		
	♦ A J 6		
	♣ J 6		

After North ducked the club ace for the second time, declarer won the trick in dummy and played a diamond. What options did the defenders have? The Tiger found himself retreading familiar ground.

“If we cash two diamond tricks and revert to trumps, South will be squeezed in three suits.”

“If partner rises with the ace and plays the heart queen, West will win with the king, enter the dummy with a spade and partner will be squeezed in three suits. The situation will be similar if I win the trick with the diamond king and switch to a heart.”

“There is no hope for the defence.”

This deal raises several points which defenders would do well to remember.

1. Even a perfect analysis of the problem will not always yield a solution.
2. Declarer cannot see through the backs of the cards. The defenders should take into consideration only lines of play that would be natural for declarer with the information actually available to him, and not double-dummy manoeuvres.
3. Declarer can often reason out the cause of a defender's hesitation, gaining insight into the layout which he would not otherwise have. Long ponderings may mean that our opponent, (who might otherwise have gone down in his contract by following the routine line) will instead find some miraculous winning line.

Does that mean you should not take time at the table? Absolutely not! The Tiger would always rather work out the right answer than rush to make the wrong play.

Part 2

THE FLY

ALERT AS FLIES

The small fly runs the constant risk of being attacked from any direction. If she is to survive, she must be alert all the time. Careful play in defense, especially when it is necessary to unblock, duck or put up an honor, may be rewarded by your partner's compliment: "My partner was as alert as a fly".

ALERT 1

Less than perfect play by declarer may make the defense easier.

The bidding was unremarkable.

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

	N		♠ 9 7 5 2
W		E	♥ Q 7
			♦ J 6 5 3
	S		♣ A K Q
♠ K J			
♥ 6 5 3 2			
♦ K 10 9			
♣ J 9 8 3			

Lead: ♥J. Dummy's queen holds the trick. Declarer crosses to his hand via the ♦A and lays down the ♠A, followed by three clubs, two more hearts and a small spade. There isn't much the defenders can do in this phase of play except follow suit. What is declarer after?

Alert 1

The full layout:

	♠ Q 10 8	
	♥ J 10 9 8	
	♦ Q 7	
	♣ 10 7 6 2	
♠ A 6 4 3	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div>N</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div></div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ A K 4		♥ Q 7
♦ A 8 4 2		♦ J 6 5 3
♣ 5 4		♣ A K Q
	♠ K J	
	♥ 6 5 3 2	
	♦ K 10 9	
	♣ J 9 8 3	

In the end position:

	♠ Q 10	
	♥ 10	
	♦ Q	
	♣ 10	
♠ 6 4 3	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div>N</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div></div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ 9 7 5
♥ —		♥ —
♦ 8 4		♦ J 6
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ K	
	♥ 6	
	♦ K 9	
	♣ J	

The defenders are unable to cash the two diamond tricks they are entitled to.

Part 2: the Fly

The flies defended in a more sophisticated manner. When declarer led a diamond to the ace, the fly sitting South followed with the ten, to suggest to partner that she unblock the queen. In turn, under the ace of trumps South unblocked herself, dropping the king. Did that complete the defenders' efforts? When declarer cashed his club winners, South followed in a strange order J, 8, 9, asking partner for a non-standard play.

This position was reached after two rounds of hearts:

	♠ Q 10	
	♥ 10	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 10	
♠ 6 4 3		♠ 9 7 5
♥ —		♥ —
♦ 8 4		♦ J 6
♣ —		♣ —
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ J	
	♥ 6	
	♦ K 9	
	♣ 3	

West exited with a low spade. Awakened by her partner's club signals, North rose with the queen and played a diamond through. Hard work well done...

Arguably, West should have been more careful. It would have been better to win the opening lead in hand with the king (thereby suggesting that South holds the ace) and cash the ♦A. This would have made it far more difficult for North to unblock the ♦Q.

ALERT 2

Disrupting declarer's communication.

The auction was uninspiring.

W	N	E	S
		1♣	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ A K Q 2
	♥ K 10 4
	♦ 6 3
	♣ A K 7 2
♠ 9 7 3	
♥ Q 8 5 2	
♦ J 2	
♣ Q J 6 5	

Lead: ♠J. Declarer wins in dummy and plays a diamond to his ten and North's queen, South following with the ♦2. North, having noted his partner's discouraging signal in spades, duly switches to clubs. Declarer takes the king and leads a diamond to the ace, followed by the ♦9. Partner wins the king and switches back to clubs. West claims ten tricks.

Part 2: the Fly

The complete hand:

	♠ J 10 8 6	
	♥ J 9 6	
	♦ K Q 7 5	
	♣ 10 9	
♠ 5 4		♠ A K Q 2
♥ A 7 3		♥ K 10 4
♦ A 10 9 8 4		♦ 6 3
♣ 8 4 3		♣ A K 7 2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	
	♠ 9 7 3	
	♥ Q 8 5 2	
	♦ J 2	
	♣ Q J 6 5	

The alert fly inserted the jack of diamonds at Trick 2. Short of entries, West ducked, but it didn't help him on this layout. The result: one down.

ALERT 3

Threatened from all sides, the fly must be constantly alert to survive.

The bidding indicated slam aspirations.

Team Game

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣*	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT**	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

* – Relay

** – 5-3-3-2 pattern (any shortage)

	N		♠ A J 7 2
W		E	♥ K Q 5 4
			♦ K 4 3
	S		♣ Q 5
♠	Q 10 5		
♥	10 8 6 2		
♦	Q 5		
♣	K 9 4 2		

Lead: ♦J. Declarer wins with the king and plays a club to the jack. Partner takes the ace and...

With a slightly different hand:

♠ K 9 8 6 4
♥ 9 7
♦ A 8 7
♣ A 8 3

only a novice would play clubs by leading low from dummy. Without the jack, the natural thing to do is to play towards the queen, not away from it.

With the actual West hand:

♠ K 9 8 6 4
♥ A 9 7
♦ A 8 7
♣ J 8

inserting the king at Trick 2 preserves the communication between defenders necessary to establish and cash the setting diamond trick.

ALERT 4

The cornered fly never surrenders. There's always a chance the predator will give up first.

W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♥
Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

	N		♠ A 10
			♥ Q 4
W		E	♦ A K 7 3
	S		♣ A K Q J 10
			♠ K 6 5
			♥ A J 10 8 2
			♦ Q J 10 4
			♣ 2

Lead: ♥6. Your ten holds and you switch to your singleton club. Declarer cashes the two top diamonds, pitching a heart, followed by another diamond on which he discards his last heart loser.

Alert 4

The four hands:

♠ Q J 9 8 7 2	♠ 4 3	♠ A 10									
♥ 9 5 3	♥ K 7 6	♥ Q 4									
♦ 8	♦ 9 6 5 2	♦ A K 7 3									
♣ 9 7 4	♣ 8 6 5 3	♣ A K Q J 10									
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		
N		E									
W											
	S										
	♠ K 6 5										
	♥ A J 10 8 2										
	♦ Q J 10 4										
	♣ 2										

The fly dropped the queen under the ace of diamonds and the jack under the king. On the third round of diamonds, she followed with the four.

Declarer could still have made the contract by ruffing, crossing to the ♠A, and playing another diamond. South wouldn't have been able to refuse taking this trick. But West changed his plans and decided to try the spade finesse. He lacked persistence. Now south could underlead in hearts and get the club ruff for the setting trick.

Be that as it may, the fly's foresight was admirable. Very few defenders would think of unblocking the diamond honors.

ALERT 5

Since you were not courageous enough to overcall in spades, you were delighted with partner's opening lead.

NS Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

	N		♠ Q 6
W		E	♥ A 6 3 2
			♦ 6 3
	S		♣ A K Q 8
♠ K 9 7 4 2			
♥ K 9 7			
♦ K 8 4			
♣ 10 2			

Lead: ♠J. The jack is covered by dummy's queen and your king. West wins the third round of spades with the ace, enters dummy in clubs and plays a diamond to the ten. North produces the jack and switches to hearts. Two tricks later, after a successful finesse against the ♦K, declarer claims the contract.

Alert 5

The entire layout:

	♠ J 10 3	
	♥ J 10 8	
	♦ J 7 2	
	♣ J 9 6 4 3	
♠ A 8 5	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N E S</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	♠ Q 6
♥ Q 5 4		♥ A 6 3 2
♦ A Q 10 9 5		♦ 6 3
♣ 7 5		♣ A K Q 8
	♠ K 9 7 4 2	
	♥ K 9 7	
	♦ K 8 4	
	♣ 10 2	

The fly went up with the ♦K when the first diamond was led from dummy. West was helpless. He couldn't hold up – South had two spades winners ready to cash. But when he took the ace and set up the suit by conceding a diamond to the jack, he was unable to reach the winners in his hand.

EXTREMELY ALERT 1

Whenever a fly is sitting and rubbing her legs or her head, she is relaxed and unsuspecting of any danger. However, at any moment she may rapidly stand up on all legs and become still. If she also crouches, that means she is extremely alert.

The bidding indicated long clubs in the West hand.

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	2 ♥	Dbl	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

♠ 10 6
 ♥ A K J 9 8 4
 ♦ J 7 4
 ♣ K 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 3
 ♥ 6 5 3
 ♦ A K Q 5
 ♣ J 6 4

Lead: ♥A, ♥K. Declarer ruffs the second heart and plays the ace of clubs. He next draws two rounds of trump with the ace and king, crosses to dummy with a diamond and ruffs the last heart.

Extremely alert 1

After cashing the two remaining diamond honors he reaches the following position:

	♠ –	
	♥ J 9 8	
	♦ –	
	♣ K	
♠ 5	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N S</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	♠ 9
♥ –		♥ –
♦ –		♦ 5
♣ 9 7 3		♣ J 6
	♠ Q	
	♥ –	
	♦ 8	
	♣ Q 10	

You get in with the ♣K and, perforce, exit with a heart. When declarer discards a club from dummy, South is helpless.

The full deal:

	♠ 10 6	
	♥ A K J 9 8 4	
	♦ J 7 4	
	♣ K 2	
♠ A K 5 4 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N S</div> <div style="text-align: left;">E</div> </div>	♠ 9 7 3
♥ 2		♥ 6 5 3
♦ 10 9		♦ A K Q 5
♣ A 9 7 5 3		♣ J 6 4
	♠ Q J 8	
	♥ Q 10 7	
	♦ 8 6 3 2	
	♣ Q 10 8	

Part 2: the Fly

The fly, standing upright on all her legs, discarded the ♣K at Trick 3. Is this enough to set the contract? With no further efforts from the defense, declarer would now lead the ♦9, ducking in dummy, and draw two rounds of trumps. Three more rounds of diamonds and a heart ruffed in hand would lead to this three-card ending:

	♠ —										
	♥ 9 8										
	♦ —										
	♣ 2										
♠ 5 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 9 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ Q										
	♥ —										
	♦ —										
	♣ Q 10										

South is endplayed in spades.

Unblocking the ♣K was just the first step. To finish it off, North had to cover the nine of diamonds with the jack. Blocking the diamonds in this way prevents the throw-in.

“Why is declarer playing double-dummy?” you might ask.

In the end position we just examined, from declarer’s perspective North may hold the ♠Q and the whole deal might quite simply be:

Extremely alert 1

	♠ 10 6	
	♥ A K J 9 8 4	
	♦ J 7 4	
	♣ K Q	
♠ A K 5 4 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ 9 7 3
♥ 2		♥ 6 5 3
♦ 10 9		♦ A K Q 5
♣ A 9 7 5 3		♣ J 6 4
	♠ Q J 8	
	♥ Q 10 7	
	♦ 8 6 3 2	
	♣ 10 8 2	

By going for the endplay instead of the simple chance in clubs, West would lose an easy game.

How would declarer know what to do? Many times, defensive unblocking is preceded by some hesitation, which betrays the honor location. Declarer is entitled to take advantage of such an observation. Unblocking smoothly, so that declarer can draw no conclusions from the defender's tempo, is superlative defense indeed. s

EXTREMELY ALERT 2

The bidding gave the defenders a complete picture of declarer's hand.

NS Vulnerable

Pairs

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT**	Pass	4♠	All Pass

* – waiting, game forcing.

** – 5-4-2-2 distribution

♠ 10 6
♥ Q J 6 4
♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ 5 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ A K 10
♦ A 5
♣ Q 8 6 4

Lead: ♦10. Declarer rises with the ace (South encouraging with the ♦2), draws two rounds of trumps and plays a heart to dummy's ten. This is followed by the ace and king of hearts and a small diamond. South wins this trick, but finds himself endplayed.

Extremely alert 2

The complete deal:

	♠ 10 6	
	♥ Q J 6 4	
	♦ 10 9 8 4	
	♣ 5 3 2	
♠ A K Q 4 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px;"> S </div>	♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ 9 8 5 2		♥ A K 10
♦ J 7		♦ A 5
♣ A 9		♣ Q 8 6 4
	♠ J 8	
	♥ 7 3	
	♦ K Q 6 3 2	
	♣ K J 10 7	

Declarer drew trumps for fear of bad breaks, but doing so destroyed the communication needed for the strip and end-play that would have generated overtricks.

The fly knew that declarer had erred by playing two rounds of trump and carefully inserted the ♥J when declarer led low towards dummy. Declarer was now forced to return to hand with a third spade.

Part 2: the Fly

The heart finesse and cashing the remaining heart honor led to:

	♠ –	
	♥ Q	
	♦ 9 8 4	
	♣ 3 2	
♠ 4 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> S </div>	♠ 9
♥ 9		♥ –
♦ J		♦ 5
♣ A 9		♣ Q 8 6 4
	♠ –	
	♥ –	
	♦ K Q 6	
	♣ K J 10	

The throw-in was no longer effective. South continued diamonds and dummy had one trump too few to make twelve tricks.

DANGER ALL AROUND 1

*All is silent
 All is dark.
 With acute ear,
 With intent eye
 Our alert fly
 Will never die.*

You judged well not to enter the bidding.

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

	N		♠ 10 9 8 5 3
W		E	♥ 6
			♦ K J 9 2
	S		♣ K 7 3
♠ 4			
♥ 8 5 4 2			
♦ 8 6 4 3			
♣ A 9 8 2			

Lead: ♠K. West wins the ace, draws three rounds of trumps, cashes the ♦A and throws you in with the fourth heart.

♠ A 6		♠ K Q J 7 2	
♥ A K Q J 9 7 3		♥ 10	
♦ A		♦ Q 10 7 5	
♣ 10 5 4		♣ Q J 6	
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>		
		♠ 4	♠ 10 9 8 5 3
		♥ 8 5 4 2	♥ 6
		♦ 8 6 4 3	♦ K J 9 2
		♣ A 9 8 2	♣ K 7 3

If South had been as alert as a fly, he would have held on to the two of hearts to protect himself from the endplay.

DANGER ALL AROUND 2

Preemptive bidding makes rational defense difficult. It does not always allow the defenders to draw accurate conclusions from the auction.

W	N	E	S
	2♥*	Pass	3♥**
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

* – weak two

** – preemptive

<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div>N</div> <div style="display: flex; width: 100%;"> <div style="width: 40%;">W</div> <div style="width: 20%;"></div> <div style="width: 40%;">E</div> </div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ 5 3 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ K 10 9 2 ♣ A 10 7 3
♠ K 10 4 ♥ K 8 7 ♦ A J 8 6 3 ♣ 8 6	

Lead: ♥Q. Declarer plays the ace of hearts from dummy followed by a low spade to the eight. Partner takes the nine and returns a second heart. West ruffs, crosses to the ♣A and persists with trumps.

Part 2: the Fly

The fly will hop up with the ♠K. Why? This is the entire layout:

♠ A 8 7 6 2	♠ Q J 9	♠ 5 3
♥ 3	♥ Q J 10 5 4 2	♥ A 9 6
♦ 5 4	♦ Q 7	♦ K 10 9 2
♣ K Q J 5 4	♣ 9 2	♣ A 10 7 3

♠ K 10 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			♠ 5 3
W	N	E						
S								
♥ K 8 7		♥ A 9 6						
♦ A J 8 6 3		♦ K 10 9 2						
♣ 8 6		♣ A 10 7 3						

If South follows with the ten, declarer will take the ace, enter dummy via the ♣10, ruff the third heart and put South in with the ♠K.

In practice, the unblock is difficult to find. South must play West to have overcalled at the three level with a weak five-card suit and relatively few HCP. However, such a bid is not unheard of: sometimes our own bidding pressures the opponents into action. From West's point of view, the negative features of his hand were to some degree compensated for by his 5-5 shape. Partner's ♣2, showing an even number of clubs, should alert South to the distributional nature of West's hand, making the possibility of a light overcall more realistic.

CLEVER

Yosaro, a Bolivian fly, is characterized by uncommon intelligence.

The bidding left the defenders in the dark as to their best lead but fortunately North had a long suit.

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

* – inverted (10+HCP 4+ clubs)

	N		♠ 6 5
W		E	♥ Q 10 4
			♦ J 2
	S		♣ A K J 10 9 2
♠ A 7 4 2			
♥ K 6 3			
♦ K 10 5			
♣ 8 4 3			

Lead: ♦6. Declarer holds up twice and takes the third diamond with the ace. Partner signals spade values by following with a high diamond on the third round of diamonds, and we assume for the sake of this analysis that he holds the ♠K. (If he does not, the contract cannot be set.)

Part 2: the Fly

Routine defense leads to this end position:

	♠ K 8	
	♥ J 9	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	
♠ Q J		♠ 6
♥ A 8		♥ Q 10 4
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	
	♠ A 7	
	♥ K 6	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

Declarers exits with a spade and is destined to score two heart tricks.

The full deal:

	♠ K 8 3	
	♥ J 9 7 2	
	♦ Q 9 8 6 3	
	♣ 6	
♠ Q J 10 9		♠ 6 5
♥ A 8 5		♥ Q 10 4
♦ A 7 4		♦ J 2
♣ Q 7 5		♣ A K J 10 9 2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	
	♠ A 7 4 2	
	♥ K 6 3	
	♦ K 10 5	
	♣ 8 4 3	

Yosaro, sitting South, steered to a different ending:

	♠ K 8	
	♥ J 9	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	
♠ Q J		♠ 6
♥ A 8		♥ Q 10 4
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ A 7 4	
	♥ K	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

Declarer, having noted all the heart discards, must guess which defender is left with a bare honor.

A FLY AS WISE AS AN OWL 1

Foresight is the watchword for our hero.

West showed five or more hearts in the bidding.

Teams

W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♦
1♥	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥**	Pass	4♥	All pass

* – waiting, game forcing

** – Five plus hearts

♠ J 10 9 6 4 2
 ♥ Q 5
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 10 9 7 4

	N		♠ A K
W		E	♥ J 8 7 3
			♦ 9 7 4
	S		♣ A K Q J

Lead: ♦Q. Partner takes the ace and returns the ♦J. You ruff West's king and switch to a spade. Declarer plays a low trump from dummy and ducks South's ♥10. You win the trick with your ♥Q, but since you do not have a diamond to lead declarer claims the rest.

A FLY AS WISE AS AN OWL 2

Even the most innocuous of contracts require thoughtful defense.

W	N	E	S
	1 ♣	1 ♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

♠ 10 9
 ♥ K J 10
 ♦ A J 3
 ♣ K J 9 4 2

N		♠ K J 6 3 2
W		♥ 8 4 3
E		♦ K 5
S		♣ A 6 3

Lead: ♠10. West cashes the ♠A and ♠Q, partner following with the ♠8 and the ♠7, indicating a strong heart value. (He could have played the ♠8 and the ♠4 or ♠5.) Declarer leads a diamond to the king and...

Part 2: the Fly

You must now predict what will happen next, a skill traditionally associated with the owl. Upon winning the $\spadesuit K$, declarer will cash one spade (you will discard a club) and play a diamond, reaching the following ending:

	\spadesuit —										
	\heartsuit K J 10										
	\diamondsuit A										
	\clubsuit K J 9 4										
\spadesuit —	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		\spadesuit J 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
\heartsuit Q 6 2		\heartsuit 8 4 3									
\diamondsuit Q 8		\diamondsuit —									
\clubsuit Q 10 7		\clubsuit A 6 3									
	\spadesuit 5										
	\heartsuit A 9 7 5										
	\diamondsuit 10										
	\clubsuit 8 5										

You will score the $\spadesuit J$, but will have no defense against the throw-in.

The only chance to beat the contract is to find partner with ♦109x. On this assumption, the fly unblocked the jack when declarer led a diamond from hand at Trick 3. As a result, a slightly different end position was reached:

	♠ –	
	♥ K J 10	
	♦ A 3	
	♣ K J 9 4	
♠ –		♠ J 6
♥ Q 6 2		♥ 8 4 3
♦ Q 8 7		♦ 5
♣ Q 10 7		♣ A 6 3
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
	♠ 5	
	♥ A 9 7 5	
	♦ 10 9	
	♣ 8 5	

If declarer persists with spades he squeezes his own hand, while any other continuation saves North from the endplay.

Note that if you play at Trick 3 ♦A (instead of ♦J), declarer may unblock ♦K and...no defense against the throw-in.

A FLY – NOT A CALF 1

Subtleties are not easy to find at the table. Nevertheless, it is always worth trying...

Despite your aggressive preempt, the opponents bid everybody's favorite game contract, 3NT.

W	N	E	S
3NT	All Pass		3♦

	N		♠ J 10 5 3
W		E	♥ 8 6
			♦ Q 3 2
	S		♣ Q J 4 2
♠ 9 7 2			
♥ —			
♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 4			
♣ 10 8 7			

Lead: ♥J. You carefully signal count in spades by pitching the spade nine. Partner ducks the king and queen of spades, winning the third round of the suit. When he switches back to hearts, you again signal count, this time in clubs. Partner ducks the ♣K, wins the next club and once again returns to hearts.

Have you fulfilled your duties?

	♠ A 8 4										
	♥ J 10 9 7 5 4										
	♦ –										
	♣ A 9 5 3										
♠ K Q 6		♠ J 10 5 3									
♥ A K Q 3 2		♥ 8 6									
♦ K J 5		♦ Q 3 2									
♣ K 6		♣ Q J 4 2									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 9 7 2										
	♥ –										
	♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 4										
	♣ 10 8 7										

You don't suppose I mean ducking the king and jack of diamonds, do you? If that were the only issue here, the problem would be entitled "Don't be a calf".

The fly will hold on to the precious ♦4. It will become the key card shortly.

Part 2: the Fly

In this end position:

♠ –	♠ –
♥ 7 5 4	♥ –
♦ –	♦ Q 3 2
♣ 9 5	♣ Q

♠ –	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 5px 0;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ J
♥ 3 2		♥ –
♦ K J 5		♦ Q 3 2
♣ –		♣ Q

♠ –
♥ –
♦ A 10 9 8 ?
♣ –

Declarer plays the ♦5, following with dummy's ♦2. If you win this trick, declarer will find himself with an unexpected entry to dummy. You must have the ♦4 left in order to duck and set the contract!

A FLY – NOT A CALF 2

The title might as well be: “an ordinary fly”. A number of typical maneuvers are in the repertoire of all decently educated bridge players, although the beginners have yet to learn them.

W	N	E	S
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

	N		♠ A 8 7 5 3
W		E	♥ Q J 9 8 3
			♦ Q
	S		♣ 4 2
♠ J 2			
♥ 6 5			
♦ 10 9 7 6 4			
♣ 9 8 7 5			

Lead: ♣K. West takes the ace, crosses to the ♠A and cashes the singleton queen of diamonds. He returns to hand with a trump, cashes the ♦A (pitching a club) and ruffs a club. After crossing back to hand with another trump he cashes the ♦K and ruffs a second club, stripping the hand.

Part 2: the Fly

This is the ending reached:

	♠ K 10	
	♥ —	
	♦ J	
	♣ Q	
♠ Q 9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	♠ 8 7 5
♥ 10 2		♥ Q
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ J	
	♥ —	
	♦ 10 9	
	♣ 9	

It's time for spades. You realize with horror that your jack holds the trick. You are forced to concede a ruff and discard.

The four hands:

	♠ K 10 4	
	♥ 7 4	
	♦ J 8 3 2	
	♣ K Q 10 3	
♠ Q 9 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	♠ A 8 7 5 3
♥ A K 10 2		♥ Q J 9 8 3
♦ A K 5		♦ Q
♣ A J 6		♣ 4 2
	♠ J 2	
	♥ 6 5	
	♦ 10 9 7 6 4	
	♣ 9 8 7 5	

The fly, as you might expect, had unblocked the jack at Trick 2. Was she capable of predicting the four-card ending? I doubt it. She did it routinely.

Let's examine a variation on this theme and imagine a slightly different layout:

	♠ 10 4										
	♥ 7 4										
	♦ J 8 7 3 2										
	♣ K Q 10 3										
♠ Q 9 6 ♥ A K 10 2 ♦ A K 5 ♣ A J 6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 8 7 5 3 ♥ Q J 9 8 3 ♦ Q ♣ 4 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K J 2										
	♥ 6 5										
	♦ 10 9 6 4										
	♣ 9 8 7 5										

In the same four-card ending, South has to follow with the jack of spades smoothly. Admittedly, this is not an easy thing to do: partner may hold the ♠Q, in which case he will be forced to win and give a ruff and discard.

West would only have 19 HCP without the queen of spades, you might argue. Well, it would not be the first time a player shaded a no-trump opening. Of course, the defenders would likely have the opportunity to inform each other about the spade position during the course of play. On the other hand, signaling too clearly risks disclosing the layout to declarer as well.

A FLY – NOT A CALF 3

Vigilance is the opposite of mindlessness. A vigilant mind works at full speed.

The opponents won the bidding. Make sure they don't win the play too.

NS Vulnerable

Teams

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♦	All Pass

♠ A Q 6 3
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ K Q 7 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 4 2
 ♥ K 6 5 4
 ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ J 10

Lead: ♣K, followed by a small club. Declarer ruffs and draws two rounds of trumps (partner discarding a high club on the second round – suit preference for spades), to reach this position:

	♠ A Q 6 3	
	♥ J 3	
	♦ –	
	♣ Q 7 5	
♠ J 10	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ 9 7 4 2
♥ A 10 9		♥ K 6 5 4
♦ K 10 9 7		♦ Q
♣ –		♣ –
	♠ K 8 5	
	♥ Q 8 7 2	
	♦ –	
	♣ A 9	

Declarer now leads the ♠10. Knowing from his signals that partner holds the ♠K, you thoughtlessly duck. Partner takes the trick and helplessly returns another spade, throwing you in. Whatever you do, declarer avoids losing a heart.

Part 2: the Fly

♠ J 10
♥ A 10 9
♦ K J 10 9 7 6 5
♣ 4

♠ A Q 6 3
♥ J 3
♦ 4 2
♣ K Q 7 5 3

♠ 9 7 4 2
♥ K 6 5 4
♦ A Q 3
♣ J 10

♠ K 8 5
♥ Q 8 7 2
♦ 8
♣ A 9 8 6 2

Declarer's distribution at the critical moment was almost sure to be 2=3=7=1 (if he had 3-2-7-1 nothing mattered).

The fly covered declarer's spade and exited with a low spade. Partner won the ♠K and was able to exit safely with a third spade.

A FLY – NOT A CALF 4

Successful defense demands constant attention. One cannot afford a moment of distraction.

Aggressive bidding led your opponents to a slam.

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

	N		♠ 9 6 5 4 3
W		E	♥ A 4
			♦ K Q
	S		♣ A J 10 3
♠ K 10			
♥ Q 7 5			
♦ 9 8 6 3 2			
♣ 7 5 2			

Lead: ♥2 (fourth best). Declarer takes the ace, plays a spade to the ace, cashes two diamonds and the ♥K, and ruffs a heart.

Part 2: the Fly

Here is the ending:

	♠ Q	
	♥ J	
	♦ 10 7	
	♣ Q 8 4	
♠ J 8 7	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ 9 6 5
♥ 9		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ K 9 6		♣ A J 10 3
	♠ K	
	♥ —	
	♦ 9 8 6	
	♣ 7 5 2	

You are thrown in with a trump. West claims twelve tricks.

The four hands:

	♠ Q 2	
	♥ J 10 6 2	
	♦ 10 7 5 4	
	♣ Q 8 4	
♠ A J 8 7	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ 9 6 5 4 3
♥ K 9 8 3		♥ A 4
♦ A J		♦ K Q
♣ K 9 6		♣ A J 10 3
	♠ K 10	
	♥ Q 7 5	
	♦ 9 8 6 3 2	
	♣ 7 5 2	

The fly hopped up with the king of spades at Trick 2. The fear of crashing into a singleton ace or queen is irrational. Why? Partner led the ♥2 (fourth best). It follows that both he and West hold four card heart suits, and even the most eccentric players do not open 1NT with five spades and four hearts. Much more real is the danger of an endplay.

What are the benefits of unblocking the king of spades? North, who will win the defense's trump trick with the ♠Q in this scenario, can safely exit with his fourth heart. Moreover, unblocking the king suggests fear of a throw-in. This may lead declarer to mistakenly infer that South holds the ♣Q, since without the ♣Q would be far more difficult to recognize the necessity of this play.

THE CHESS-PLAYING FLY

The fly anticipates future developments and works to avoid coming dangers.

You would not expect anything out of the ordinary in the play after such routine bidding:

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

♠ J 8
♥ Q 9 8 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ J 10 9 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A J 8 3
♣ K 8

Lead: ♣J. Dummy's ♣K holds as partner follows with the ♣3, signaling an even number of clubs. Declarer crosses to hand via a heart, South dropping the jack, and exits with a diamond to the jack. Partner wins the king and returns a club. Now a spade is led to dummy's ten and partner's king. The club switch is won by declarer's queen. Where is the trap?

The chess-playing fly

The full hand:

	♠ J 8	
	♥ Q 9 8 3 2	
	♦ 9 7	
	♣ J 10 9 6	
♠ 9 2		♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ A K 10 5		♥ 7 6 4
♦ Q 5 4 2		♦ A J 8 3
♣ A Q 2		♣ K 8
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS </div> </div>	
	♠ A K 7 6 3	
	♥ J	
	♦ K 10 6	
	♣ 7 5 4 3	

The fly remembered to unblock clubs. This was the end position:

	♠ J	
	♥ Q 9 8 3	
	♦ 9	
	♣ ?	
♠ 9		♠ Q 5 4
♥ K 10 5		♥ 7
♦ Q 5 4		♦ A 8 3
♣ —		♣ —
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS </div> </div>	
	♠ A 7 6 3	
	♥ —	
	♦ 10 6	
	♣ 7	

A diamond to the ace and a diamond back to the queen forces you to discard a heart. (It's no help to discard the spade jack instead.) Declarer's next move is the ♠9. Your jack wins and the rest depends on the club spot you have left. If it's the six, you've managed to save yourself from the endplay.

THE FLY PROTECTS HER PARTNER

Protecting partner is a hallmark of players nicknamed “fly”.

The bidding climbed high.

W	N	E	S
	4♠	Dbl*	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

* – strong balanced

	N		♠ J 9 7 2
			♥ 10 5 4
W		E	♦ A Q 3
	S		♣ A K 7
♠ K 5			
♥ Q 8 2			
♦ J 10 9 8 4			
♣ 6 5 2			

Lead: ♠A. Declarer ruffs and plays a club to dummy, North discarding a spade. Declarer ruffs another spade and crosses back to dummy's ♦Q to ruff his third spade (you discard a diamond). Next come the king and ace of diamonds, partner discarding another spade on the third round.

The fly protects her partner

This is the ending reached:

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div>N</div> <div></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div>W</div> <div>E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ J ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ — ♣ A 7
♠ — ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ J ♣ 6 5	

Declarer leads the ♠J from dummy. The calf would dispose of the useless diamond.

The fly, naturally, ruffs to protect her partner from being endplayed.

Does that conclude her efforts? When declarer crosses to dummy with trumps to play a heart, the fly carefully inserts the eight.

The full deal:

		♠ A Q 10 8 6 4 3 ♥ A J 9 6 ♦ 7 6 ♣ —
♠ — ♥ K 7 3 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ Q J 10 9 8 4 3	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div>N</div> <div></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div>W</div> <div>E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ J 9 7 2 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ A K 7
		♠ K 5 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ J 10 9 8 4 ♣ 6 5 2

North would have to be alert, too. He needs to keep the seemingly unimportant ♥6 to underplay your ♥8 if declarer ducks.

THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN TWO FLIES 1

Quite often the careful play of one defender is not sufficient, and cooperation between partners is necessary to beat the contract.

Defenders do not welcome insouciant bidding sequences like this one, as they reveal little about declarer's hand.

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	3♥*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

* – Limit

	N		♠ 9 7 4 2
W		E	♥ Q 10 5 4
			♦ A Q 3
	S		♣ J 10
♠ K 10 5			
♥ 8 2			
♦ K 10 9 8 4			
♣ K 9 2			

Lead: ♣7. You put up the king, but declarer takes the ace, crosses to the ten of trumps and leads a spade, finessing the queen. He then cashes the ♠A and ♣Q. After crossing to the ♥Q (North playing a small club), this ending is reached:

The co-operation between two flies 1

N W E S	♠ 9 7 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ —
♠ K ♥ — ♦ K 10 9 8 4 ♣ 9	

Declarer plays a spade, pitching a diamond loser from hand. You win the ♠K and are endplayed.

The full deal:

	♠ J 8 6 3 ♥ 6 ♦ J 2 ♣ 8 7 6 5 4 3	
♠ A Q ♥ A K J 9 7 3 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ A Q	N W E S	♠ 9 7 4 2 ♥ Q 10 5 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ J 10
	♠ K 10 5 ♥ 8 2 ♦ K 10 9 8 4 ♣ K 9 2	

Note that unblocking the spade king under the ace would not help. In the same end position you would be thrown in with the ♠10; partner would not be able to overtake your ten with the jack without establishing the ♠9 in dummy.

Part 2: the Fly

The fly would have risen with the king(or ten) on the first round of spades and then unblocked the ten under the ace, thus avoiding the throw-in.

In addition to South unblocking both the king and ten of spades, North must remember to insert the ♦J if declarer decides to play that suit.

THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN TWO FLIES 2

*In the open, immense clouds of insects buzz there,
A harmonica band that floats on the night air;
Zosia's ear can distinguish in multi-note drone
The flies' chord, and mosquitoes' off-key semitone.*

Adam Mickiewicz, *Pan Tadeusz*
(transl. by M. Weyland)

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

♠ J 8 4
♥ K Q 8 3
♦ Q J 2
♣ A 7 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 10 3 2
♥ 7 5 4
♦ K 3
♣ 10 8 2

Unable to find a completely passive lead, you select the ♥K. Partner follows with the discouraging ten, but to your surprise declarer ducks. Not a bad start. Your next step is to exit safely with the ♦Q (or deceptive ♦J) although you have no expectation of finding partner with the ace. West wins in hand (partner playing the ♦4 to signal an even number of diamonds) and proceeds to draw trumps. Partner discards the five and six of diamonds on the second and third round of spades.

Part 2: the Fly

Time for clubs. When a low club is led from dummy, partner puts up the jack and declarer covers with the king...

The complete layout:

	♠ J 8 4		
	♥ K Q 8 3		
	♦ Q J 2		
	♣ A 7 6		
♠ K 9 7 6			♠ A Q 10 3 2
♥ A J 6			♥ 7 5 4
♦ A 7			♦ K 3
♣ K 9 5 3			♣ 10 8 2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> WE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>		
	♠ 5		
	♥ 10 9 2		
	♦ 10 9 8 6 5 4		
	♣ Q J 4		

You take the ace, but there isn't much you can do at this stage to set the contract. You cannot profitably lead a second round of hearts from your side. As a result, declarer is able to establish and collect a second club winner before the defense can get the setting trick in hearts.

The co-operation between two flies 2

	♠ –	
	♥ Q 8 3	
	♦ J 2	
	♣ 7 6	
♠ 9	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ 10 3
♥ A J		♥ 7 5
♦ 7		♦ K
♣ 9 5 3		♣ 10 8
	♠ –	
	♥ 9 2	
	♦ 10 9 8	
	♣ Q 4	

The fly couldn't let her partner's accurate play of the ♣J go to waste: she held up the ace of clubs and.... this ending is reached..

	♠ –	
	♥ Q 8 3	
	♦ J 2	
	♣ A 6	
♠ 9	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> WS </div>	♠ 10 3
♥ A J		♥ 7 5
♦ 7		♦ K
♣ 9 5 3		♣ 10 8
	♠ –	
	♥ 9 2	
	♦ 10 9 8	
	♣ Q 4	

South won the second round of clubs and played a heart through. The fly was then able to cash a heart winner when in with the ♣A

This is a classic example of cooperation between two flies.