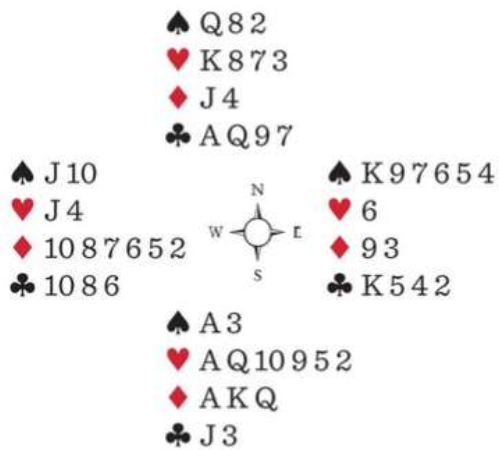


May 2020 ACBL Bulletin Notes

Two End Play Examples

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Page 48, Mike Lawrence, A Simple End Play



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
All Pass			

West leads the SJ.

On any lead but a spade the contract is cold: after drawing trump, declarer can set up a club on which to pitch the losing spade.

It is almost guaranteed that West does not have the SK, as East is showing six spades with the 2S overcall and is unlikely to have made that bid on six cards to the 10. It is also improbable that West would lead the SJ from a KJ doubleton.

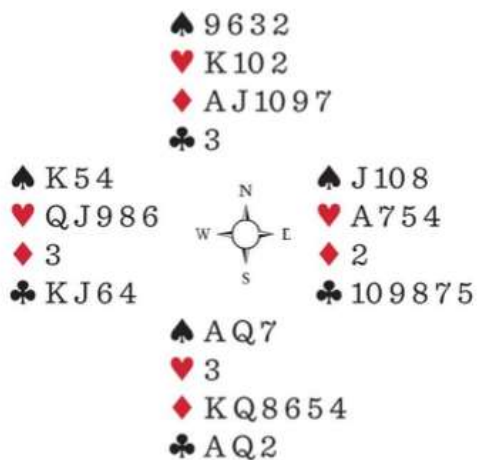
So, there is no reason to play the SQ from dummy. It's an important card if we need to end-play East – and we do.

We win the SA, pull trump, and then play the AKQ of diamonds, eliminating that suit. This elimination removes East's safe exit cards. On the third diamond, we pitch the low spade from dummy.

Now we play a spade to the Q and when East wins with the SK, he is end-played. He must either lead a club into our AQ or give us a sluff and a ruff in spades. Making our contract.

Note that if we had played the SQ at trick one, West would be able to break up the end play by winning the ST. West can safely lead a club through our AQ.

Page 49, Eddie Kantar Chalk Talk, another good end play example.



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♥	Dbl	4♥	1♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	Dbl

West leads the HQ, so we have a heart loser for sure. The key to the hand is to avoid losing two spades. Even if the CK is onside, it doesn't help because we need to make the South hand good, and there is no pitch from dummy that helps. We can ruff the club losers; spades are the problem.

This situation is very similar to the Lawrence hand. We need to duck the on the first trick, as almost assuredly East has the HA. If East continues with the HJ, we will cover with the HK and then ruff East's ace, setting up our HT. After pulling trump, we would then pitch our S7 on the HT. Finally, we would take the spade finesse for an overtrick. When it loses, we would make 5D exactly.

However, West does not want to make it easy on us, so he shifts to a trump. We win, and now both trump cards are pulled. We now cash the CA and ruff the C2.

Next, we play the HK, ruffing the HA when East covers. (We do expect the HK to be covered as West would not have led away from the ace on the opening lead.) If the HK is not covered, we pitch the S7 on the HK and then cross to our hand with a trump.

Now we ruff the Queen of clubs, eliminating that suit, and play the HT. We know that that West has the HJ as he led the HQ on the opening lead. West wins it. This eliminates the hearts from the North/South holding. All we have left in both hands are spades and diamonds.

West is now end-played. He can lead a spade into our AQ or he can give us a sluff and a ruff. Either way, we make our contract