

2nd player plays AND covering honours with honours

There may be a slight confusion about these plays.....
Let us look at these two ideas separately to begin with.

2nd player plays----- as ever the following ONLY applies to defenders and NOT declarer.

| | | | |
|-------|---------|------------|-------|
| a) | (dummy) | b) (dummy) | |
| (you) | A765 | A765 | (you) |
| Q42 | K105 | K32 | Q42 |
| QJ3 | Q87 | A87 | QJ6 |
| K43 | Q43 | K43 | K43 |
| A762 | | | A762 |

Looking at example (a)

- i) if a small spade was led by declarer you would play low {because there would be no possibility of your Q making if you played high }
- ii) if a small heart was led by declarer you would split your honours { play the Jack} not because you expect to make a trick with the Jack but because it would prevent declarer finessing the 10 in dummy.
- iii) if a small diamond was led by declarer you would play high because you will make a trick with your King
- iv) if a small club was led by declarer you would play low because you would expect to make your Ace later and it might pay to hold it back to later use it to beat an honour.

If you sat to the right of dummy as in example (b) and the dummy led a small card from each of the suits in turn then all the above would equally apply. ie i) small sp led play low. ii) small heart led play J iii) small diamond led play high {the K} iv) small club led play low.

And now to covering Honours with Honours (or not).

{Again , the following ONLY applies to defenders and NOT declarer.}

| | | | |
|-------|---------|------------|-------|
| c) | (dummy) | d) (dummy) | |
| (you) | AK6 | Q93 | (you) |
| Q42 | A65 | J32 | K42 |
| K83 | AJ109 | J87 | Q96 |
| K432 | K43 | QJ109 | K43 |
| Q76 | | | K762 |

Looking at example (c)

- i) if the Jack spades was led by declarer you would cover the honour with an honour, *not* to make a trick (immediately) *but* to possibly promote a trick for your partner. ie your partner could hold the 10
- ii) if the Q Hearts was led by declarer you would play your King (in case partner had the Jack or 10).
- iii) if the Q diamonds was led by declarer you would NOT play your Hon because partner cannot and does not hold the J or 10 .NB look at the dummy!
- iv) if the J clubs was led by declarer you cover again hoping partner has the 10.

There is no room here to discuss example (d) but suffice to say ALL of the above equally applies when you are sat to the right of dummy. i) Q sp play K ii) J Hrt play Q iii) J di play K iv) Q cl play LOW

