

Defensive review.....

Holding up and Ace

Often a defender can disrupt declarer's communications by *not* playing the Ace of a long strong suit that declarer is playing to establish.

1)

{dummy}	
Q87	
876	
QJ1093	
J8	{you}
	K54
	953
	A72
	8765

The contract is 3NT and partner led a nondescript Hrt which declarer won in hand. Declarer now leads the K diamonds.....

Well if you play the Ace diamonds then the remaining diamonds in the dummy will become winners and the declarer will no doubt have another diamond to cross to the dummy with; if you *don't* play the Ace of diamonds on the King and only play the Ace on a later diamond lead then it is possible that declarer will not be able to get over to dummy's diamonds. How many times should you duck with your Ace is up to you , { as many times as is possible is fair advice }. This sort of play is used in No Trumps where there is little chance that you will not at some point make your Ace and of course there is no chance that your Ace can be trumped !

2) Leading up to weakness -whatever you hold in the weak suit.

{dummy }	
KQ10	
432	
QJ76	{ you }
K98	A3
	AQ76
	43
	J6532
J9876	
J98	
AK	
AQ10	
{declarer }	

The contract is 4Sp. Partner led the 10 diamonds. Declarer started to draw trumps and you won with the Ace Spades. Now you have to consider switching to a new suit. {Leading diamonds back will get you nowhere}. The weak suit in the dummy is Hrts and so that is the suit to lead. You may lead the Ace and another or a small Hrt straight away , but you should try a Hrt *notwithstanding* what you hold in the suit.