

Another 4Sp contract -this time partner leads the Q clubs.

{dummy}	
KJ65	
876	
AKQJ	
32	{you}
	1093
	A2
	853
	A10652

We evaluate the likely tricks for our side as follows -

Ace Clubs + Ace Hrts { well that didn't take long ! }.

We need more tricks and realistically the only real chance is in Hrts.

A respectable defensive effort would be to play the Ace clubs on partner's Queen {there is no point in ducking it to declarer's known King and anyway you might never make your Ace if you did that }.

Having won the Club lead we lead the Ace Hearts and a small Heart.

Should partner manage to win this lead they can continue with Hearts and give us a ruff and declarer a minus score.

And 4Sp again . Partner is trying hard and they may have hit the jackpot with the lead of the King Hearts.

{dummy}	
KJ65	
876	
AKQ	
732	{you}
	1093
	A2
	853
	A10654

Can you plan where 4 tricks might come from ?

We can take the Ace + King Hearts and Ace clubs ...and the 4th trick ?

Well what about this sequence of plays :-

- 1) K Hearts *overtaken* by our Ace
- 2) return a Heart to partner's known Queen
- 3) partner leads a Heart and we trump
- 4) we take the Ace Clubs

All reasonable and whether it will work or not (this time) is not actually the point. Defenders must make plans based either on the cards they know partners hold or or the cards they hope partners will hold.

Let's use that last diagram and plan how to defend if partner had led the J Hearts. There are possibilities -eg win the Ace Hrts and send the suit back hoping partner will later get the lead and give us a ruff in Hearts .. Or.. win the Ace Hrts and play a small club and hope partner can win and return the suit to our Ace and we will give partner a ruff .Well you can't do both but as defenders you should get into the habit of trying something.

