

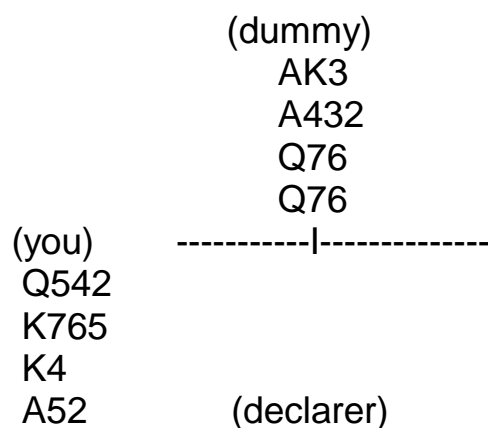
2nd player play -defensive play

There's a fair amount of rubbish talked about 2nd player playing low or high.

The old rule learnt by countless legions of card players " second player plays low" simply doesn't work in bridge . (ok -it works some of the time but what use is a rule that only works some of the time ?).

Much better is to think the thing through.

Imagine you are on the left of the dummy in these diagrams :-



- (a) if declarer leads the 6 sp towards the dummy.
You can see that you can never win the trick { the A + K are in the dummy !}
so you would play low.
- (b)if declarer led the 8 hrts towards the dummy , again you can see that your King can't win , so you play low.
- (c)if declarer led the 2 diamonds towards the dummy ,now you have to decide whether if you don't play your King now whether you will ever get a second chance.
You must choose between taking a certain trick immediately ,
or playing low in the hope that you will later get a second chance to make your King later.
This looks like a no brainer to mewe either play low and risk never making our King or we play high ensuring that our King takes a trick. QED
We play high.
- (d)if declarer led the 3 clubs towards the dummy ; you *could* play your Ace which will win the trick ; but there doesn't seem to be any urgency to win with your Ace right at this moment. You will surely get a second chance to win with the Ace. Because you expect to win with the Ace at some point, and because you would prefer to play your Ace on an honour ,you ,for the moment play low.

In 2 nd position apply the rule :-" if I can't win the trick play low; if I can win the trick but I can take it at any point {usually when you have the Ace} play low; if I can win the trick and this might be my only chance to win the trick , play high".

