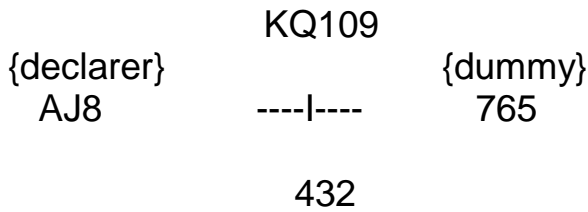


Looking at the diamonds in isolation

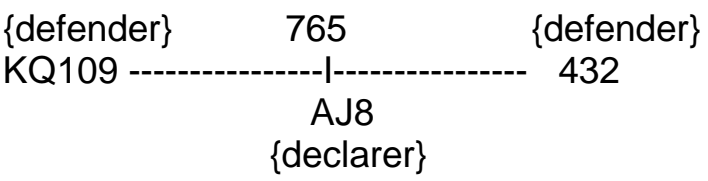


After the K is led and allowed to hold the defenders have a number of losing options :

- i) they might continue leading another diamond {this pleases the declarer who now makes both the A + J }
- ii) they might switch to a new suit { again the declarer is pleased as at least for the moment the Diamond suit is not under attack }.

Its a simple play that you should add to your repertoires post haste :
with AJx hold up the Ace whenever the K is led.

Now apart from the gain of the hold up as already discussed there is also the possibility of an extra trick to be made when playing against a certain sort of player.
 Turn the example hand around a moment and see how things look to a defender:-

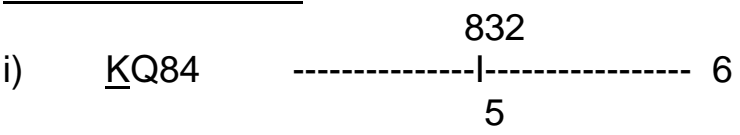


Now don't you know defenders who having led the K and *found it had won* just carry on leading the suit thinking { or probably not thinking} that they had struck oil with their lead.

Of course they shouldn't -they should look at their partner's signal and then decide whether to carry on with the suit but , as I say , there is a certain type of player

This play , when a foolhardy defender continues leading into declarer's tenace is known as the Bath Coup. { I dont know how it came by that sobriquet but you can look forward to the day when you can say to a defender that they have just been Bath Coup(ed).}

Test for defenders



You lead the K which wins -partner plays the 6. Do you carry on with the suit?



You lead the K which wins -partner plays the 8. Do you carry on with the suit?