

As a declarer you should be aware that defenders *in 2nd seat* will try to win a trick if they are able.

Here in 4Sp the declarer wins the K Hrts lead and needing to get to the dummy for finesses next plays the 3 Diamonds. The 8 is played by the left hand opponent.

```

(dummy)
QJ109
765
Q96
QJ9

A8765
A3
A103
A107
(declarer)

```

The declarer can deduce where the King Diamonds is ( ie with the right hand opponent) and play the 9 from dummy. It is true declarer doesn't know where the *Jack* diamonds lies but can be sure that the left hand player would have played the King if they held it and so the King is on the right. If the declarer is in luck the 9 will force the King.

You can use this approach of *seeing what the next player plays and then conclude that if they haven't played a certain card then they haven't got it (!)* quite often.

Heres another example. In 4Sp this is a side suit of clubs. Wheres the Ace ?

```

          KJ987653
    ??  -----|-----??
           2

```

You lead the 2 and the next player plays the 10; Question , where's the Ace ? Surely the Ace is on the right . Again the point is that no one but a complete idiot would play low in the left seat if they held the Ace when they can see all those clubs in the dummy. There would be too big a risk that they would never make their Ace clubs. Well if they play low { and you don't think they *are* an idiot or are prepared to give them the benefit of the doubt anyway this time ! } you should play the J hoping that that card might force the Ace from the right.

One last holding.

```

          4
    ???? ----|----- ?9??
          KJ83

```

In 4Sp we lead the singleton 4 clubs from dummy . The 9 is played on the right. Therefore the Ace is on the left and therefore our best play is the Jack. Again -if the right hand opponent held the Ace clubs surely they would play it when a singleton is led from dummy (lest they never make it ).As they *didn't* play the Ace a reasonable supposition is that they haven't got it !