

## Defensive moves -withholding an Ace

The contract is 3NT and you are sat to the right of dummy.

(dummy)	
Q76	
987	
KQJ109	(you)
65	K82
	Q42
	A43
	J987

Partner led a Hrt and the declarer won that lead. Unsurprisingly the declarer leads a diamond and you must decide whether to win the Ace or to duck. Clearly once your Ace has been played then all of dummy's diamonds will be winners so you decide to hold off for the moment. This by the way is good play on your part and in practise never goes far wrong.

{As an aside - don't you think that the declarer would *like* you to play your Ace ? Almost certainly is the answer -so simply play in a fashion the declarer won't like !}

What good is all this you ask . Look at declarer's hand now and perhaps you can see the benefit of withholding your Ace.

(dummy)	
Q76	
987	
KQJ109	(you)
65	K92
	Q42
	A43
	J987
A108	
AK5	
987	
AQ102	
(declarer)	

Trick 1 - declarer won the Ace Hrts

Trick 2 - dummy won the K diamonds

Trick 3 - dummy leads the Q diamonds { you duck again of course} and dummy wins .

You have managed to somewhat emasculate the dummy !

Full of potential as it was , by repeated ducking, the diamonds which are nearly established can never be reached.

Trick 4 - dummy leads the J diamonds -you win , and lead a Hrt back to partner.

Dummy's remaining diamonds will never make any tricks for declarer.

Had you *however* played your Ace at either of the first two times the diamonds were played ,*then* declarer would still have had a diamond in their hand to use to cross to dummy's diamonds .You waited to play your Ace when you hoped declarer had run out of diamonds.

