

# Contents

1	Disclosing a Doubleton	6
2	A Slip in Defence	9
3	Short Circuit	12
4	Deceiving the King	15
5	An Early Reverse	19
6	Friendly Return	22
7	A Revealing Cover	25
8	They Talk Too Much	28
9	Trial and Error	31
10	a Profitable Exchange	34
11	Pre-emptive Aid	37
12	High Pressure	40
13	... But the Patient Died	43
14	A Tactical Incident	46
15	Delayed Entry	49
16	Something Up My Sleeve	53
17	Recovery	56
18	No Suicide	59
19	A Hail of Bullets	62
20	A Profitless Overtrick	65
21	The Diamonds Were Paste	68
22	When the Trumps are Thin	72
23	Avoiding Promotion	75
24	Message in Time	78
25	Introducing a Diversion	81
26	Full Stretch	84
27	Deception Ended	87
28	Reward for Sacrifice	90
29	Second Choice	93
30	Two Doubtful Doubles	96
31	No Confidence	100
32	Counted Out	103
33	Finesses in Disfavour	106
34	Lucky Pin	109
35	Clearing a Passage	112
36	What Must Be, Must Be	115

37	Convention Not Missed	118
38	Major Road	121
39	Making the Minimum	124
40	Proper Respect	127
41	No Show of Enterprise	130
42	Lifeless Knave	133
43	Breaking Contact	136
44	Ground Level	140
45	Flight Square	143
46	Where Credit is Due	146
47	Perfidious Maiden	150
48	The Light Was Bad	153
49	Extracting the Sting	156
50	A Superfluous Nugget	159
51	Partscore Battle	162
52	Submarine Journey	165
53	No Second Chance	168
54	Slender Clue	171
55	Choice Deferred	174
56	Bold Conclusion	177
57	Treacherous Holding	180
58	Almost Caught	184
59	Show of Disinterest	187
60	Championship Echo	190
61	Timely Concession	194
62	Rash Venture	197
63	Desperate Defence	200
64	Fortune Accepted	203
65	Second String	206
66	Dangerous Height	209
67	Retaining the Loser	212
68	Unwilling Ally	215
69	Unwanted Possession	219
70	Innocent Appearance	223
71	Debatable Hold-up	226
72	Tempting Offer	229
73	Invitation Declined	232
74	Desperate Assumption	235
75	The Little Old Ladies	238

# 19 A Hail of Bullets

Playing Rubber Bridge with a somewhat excitable partner, I hold the following second in hand:

♠ Q 8 4  
 ♥ A K J 6 3  
 ♦ 8 4  
 ♣ A Q 5

No-one is vulnerable and East, on my right, deals and passes. I open One Heart and West overcalls with Four Spades. Never one to be shut out, my partner bids Five Diamonds and East doubles. I pass, so does West, and partner now retreats to Five Hearts. East doubles again, surprising no-one. All pass. The bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♥
4♠	5♦	Double	Pass
Pass	5♥	Double	All Pass

West leads the king of spades and partner's hand is not encouraging:

♠ 3  
 ♥ Q 9 2  
 ♦ K Q 10 6 3 2  
 ♣ K J 10



♠ Q 8 4  
 ♥ A K J 6 3  
 ♦ 8 4  
 ♣ A Q 5

I don't think I'm going to enjoy this. On the first spade East plays the five. West switches to the nine of clubs, which I win in dummy with the ten, East playing the two.

There is a slight reason for leaving the lead in dummy. I am going to play a diamond next, for no doubt East has the ace, and by leading from dummy I force East to play before his partner. If I lead from my hand and

West has a doubleton, he will begin an echo which will give East a count and enable him to hold off.

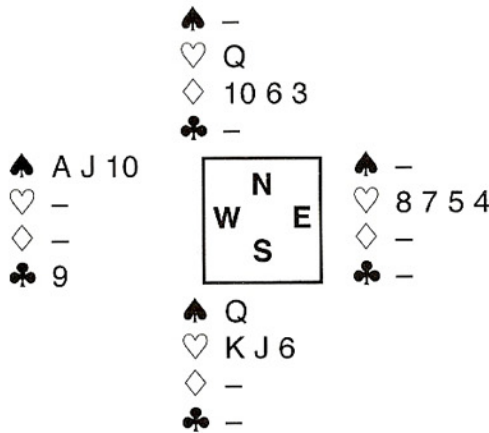
On the king of diamonds East plays the ace, I the four, and West the nine. East now leads the six of spades and dummy has to ruff with the two of hearts.

Let's see if I can count the hand. I should imagine West has seven spades and East a doubleton. West's nine of diamonds could be a singleton, or it could be the beginning of an echo from a doubleton. I can't tell about the clubs. As to the hearts, I should imagine that East has all five. If his only values had been a couple of tricks in diamonds he would probably have passed Five Diamonds. Players who double in such circumstances usually have even better defence against the first suit named. Moreover, this play of a spade to force the dummy is also suggestive of long trumps.

I can't draw his trumps by straight leads but I can exert some pressure by leading the nine and forcing him to cover. That will leave me with a major tenace of sorts. So I lead the nine of hearts from table, East plays the ten, I win with the king and West, as expected, shows out.

It looks as though East's distribution is two spades, five hearts, and either three diamonds and three clubs or four diamonds and two clubs. If he has three diamonds I think I can do it. My trumps are K-J-6-3 with the queen in dummy. East has the 8-7-5-4.

I play my second diamond to dummy, West playing the five. I ruff a third diamond with my three of hearts, East playing the jack, and take two rounds of clubs, finishing in dummy. Now I know the cards exactly, so I can show all four hands:



On the lead of a diamond from dummy East is caught in the diagonal crossfire of my trumps. Shaking his head, he plays the seven. I overruff, ruff my spade with the queen of hearts and win the last two tricks with the jack and six of hearts, just making the contract.

This was the full deal:

	♠ 3													
	♥ Q 9 2													
	♦ K Q 10 6 3 2													
	♣ K J 10													
♠ A K J 10 9 7 2	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 25%;">W</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;">E</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;">S</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> </table>		N			W		E			S			♠ 6 5
	N													
W		E												
	S													
♥ —		♥ 10 8 7 5 4												
♦ 9 5		♦ A J 7												
♣ 9 8 6 4		♣ 7 3 2												
	♠ Q 8 4													
	♥ A K J 6 3													
	♦ 8 4													
	♣ A Q 5													

## Post mortem

*(East can defeat the contract by ducking the king of diamonds. He takes the next diamond and plays back a spade and declarer must lose a trump trick. However, if declarer wins the club switch in hand with the ace and plays a diamond there is no defence. West can ensure the defeat of the contract by continuing with the ace of spades at trick two, forcing the dummy.)*

Looking at the full diagram I see that it would not have helped East to hold off the first diamond. In fact, there is no defence. The play shows the enormous power that can be exerted in an endgame when there are high trumps in both hands. That struck me some years ago when I constructed the following deal:

	♠ 6 4 2													
	♥ K 7													
	♦ A K 10 8 5 3 2													
	♣ 6													
♠ J 10 7	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 25%;">W</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;">E</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;">S</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> </table>		N			W		E			S			♠ 9 5 3
	N													
W		E												
	S													
♥ 6 5 4 3 2		♥ Q J 9 8												
♦ Q 7		♦ J 9												
♣ 9 5 2		♣ J 10 7 3												
	♠ A K Q 8													
	♥ A 10													
	♦ 6 4													
	♣ A K Q 8 4													

If you were by some odd chance to land in a contract of Six Hearts you could make it against any lead but a trump! You cash eight winners in the side suits and then lead a club from hand. Dummy's K-7 of hearts and your own A-10 will suffice to win four of the last five tricks!