

Ultimate Defence 19

Continuing with the theme of partnership cooperation, here is another problem that South was unable to solve. Yet, it was possible to find the best defence had South thought the hand through and followed the 'must have a reason for playing any card' principle.

Dealer South All Vul

<p>♠ 10 7 2</p> <p>♥ 9 2</p> <p>♦ K Q 9 8 7</p> <p>♣ 9 6 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 5 4</p> <p>♥ Q 3</p> <p>♦ 10 6 3 2</p> <p>♣ A K Q</p>
<p>♠ K Q J 8 3</p> <p>♥ K 10 8 7 5</p> <p>♦ 4</p> <p>♣ J 5</p>	<p>♠ A</p> <p>♥ A J 6 4</p> <p>♦ A J 5</p> <p>♣ 10 8 7 4 2</p>

The possible bidding:

W	N	E	S
			1C
1S	NB	3S	NB
4S	NB	NB	NB

Our South was a thinking player but didn't think far enough. North led the nine of hearts. North had a reason to do that and South decided that North must have a doubleton heart to lead one when South had opened the bidding with 1C. South therefore saw no reason for not winning the ace and returning the four. That is where South didn't think far enough. What happened was that declarer won the queen in dummy and took the opportunity to run off the three top clubs, shedding his losing diamond. Where was South lacking in his reasons for doing what he did? Just one more bit of thinking would have helped. If North had a doubleton heart, then declarer had five. Declarer went on to 4S and that must have been prompted by his distributional assets and not his high point count. Declarer clearly had either six or five spades and five hearts. Hence only three cards in the minors. Those could all go on the top clubs. South had control with the trump ace, and the only way South could see was if North could ruff high enough to beat dummy's highest trump. That was possible, which is what South was going to look for once he was in with the trump ace. He simply forgot to think about the distribution and the REASON he should have for winning the ace of hearts and returning another at trick two. He would then have found a good reason for cashing the ace of diamonds first. North would signal encouragement but the second diamond would be ruffed by declarer. However when South inevitably won the trump ace, he would have been able to lead a third heart to allow North to ruff with his ten.

