

Ultimate Defence 35

Counsel for The Defence 05

Dealer South EW Vul

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

W	N	E	S
			NB
2NT	NB	3NT	NB
NB	NB		

Bob led the club three, declarer rose with dummy's jack, I won the ace and unthinkingly returned partner's lead, the club nine just to tell him I had started with three clubs. What a waste of time! Declarer hopped up with the king, ran four spades then five diamonds and led a heart to the king, claiming ten tricks when it lost to Bob's ace and I made two more hearts. Too little too late but still a pretty ordinary board, as it turned out and all Bob did was shrug his shoulders and give me a pitying look. I knew full well that I had blundered the same way that most other Souths must have, since the result was not much worse than average for us. But I should have stopped to think, shouldn't I? Bob had four clubs but surely they were headed by the queen? Declarer's play of the jack from dummy must have been done to lead me astray, and I should have realised that. Counting declarer's points and adding to mine and dummy's plus the realisation that three club tricks wouldn't be enough, should have placed partner with around SIX HCP. There could be little wrong with switching immediately to the QUEEN OF HEARTS. Surely that would only be wrong if declarer had both the ace and king and Bob had a diamond or spade entry. Well, maybe at match points it was right to return a club but why would declarer rise with dummy's jack unless it was a smokescreen? I should have been awake and decided that I would, in future, think before letting partner down.

