

Ultimate Defence 36

Counsel for The Defence 06

This was the setup some boards later:

Dealer East EW Vul

Dummy (East)

♠ K Q 5 3

♥ J 8 5

♦ A 6 3

♣ A 10 8

Me (South)

♠ A J 10 4

♥ A 7

♦ 8 5

♣ J 7 6 4 2

East opened a weak 1NT (12-14), I passed, West jumped to 3H and was raised to game. In those days there were no transfers or the story might have been different. But even these days some people (including myself at times) like to play the simple old fashioned way. 3H was forcing to game and showed EXACTLY a five card heart suit because with six West would have jumped to 4H. Bob started the defence with the lead of the queen of diamonds. Declarer ran this to her king. A heart followed to the eight and I won my ace and returned my second diamond, the five, having petered with the eight on the opening lead. Declarer followed with the seven, Bob with the nine, and dummy won the ace. The five of hearts was led from dummy and declarer played the queen, won by Bob's king. Expectantly, I waited for Bob to take his diamond trick but he switched to... The TWO OF SPADES! Dummy played the queen and I won the ace, somewhat frustrated at Bob's lost diamond trick. But then I remembered my earlier resolution: Trust Bob to have a reason for doing what he was doing. Bob always had a reason for doing something, and it was up to me to cooperate.

Coming up: what I did and why. What would YOU have done?