

# Ultimate Defence 37

## Counsel for the Defence 07 – Ruff Justice

Well done to those readers who correctly diagnosed what Bob was trying to tell me. At the time I was too stupid to do anything other than win my ace of spades and return the jack to dummy's queen, trying to set up a spade trick or give Bob a spade ruff. A waste of time once more, because this was the way things were:

### *Dealer South EW Vul*

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

It was true that Bob did want a ruff, but it wasn't a spade ruff was it? What he was trying to tell me should have been obvious, as one of my regular readers has said, in his own words:

“Bob must have a void in clubs. Declarer cannot have four spades or he would have bid Stayman. Why did Bob not cash a diamond? Because it wouldn't cash, hence he had six of them. Why did he lead the TWO of spades? Well, he could have been trying to tell me he had four of them, which would also place him with a club void. Standard 'carding' is that you lead a LOW card from an HONOUR, which he clearly didn't have. Hence it was more likely to be a SUIT PREFERENCE signal. Everything about his play suggests that he wants a CLUB RUFF”.

Yes, West's 3H bid, forcing to game, was a slightly optimistic one, but with the shape he had, not unreasonable. We all agreed that I missed the opportunity to defend properly. Had I done so, I could have called it “Ruff Justice”. I resolved to do better next time.