

Deal	You hold	Dummy has	Partner plays	Declarer plays
1	♦ A K J 10 5	♦ 9 7	♦ 2	♦ 3
2	♦ A K J 10 5	♦ 9 7 4	♦ 2	♦ 3
3	♦ A K J 10 5	♦ 9 7 4	♦ 8	♦ 3

What you want to know is: how many diamonds does each player hold? Who has the queen of diamonds? If declarer has it, is it in a holding of two, three or four cards?

- If declarer has ♦Q-3, you should play your ♦A next and the queen of diamonds will drop.
- If declarer has ♦Q-4-3, you should switch to another suit and hope that partner gains the lead and can play back a diamond
- If declarer has ♦Q-6-4-3, partner has a singleton diamond and you will have to give up a diamond to declarer's queen in order to establish your diamond suit. Or maybe you should switch to another suit and not give a trick away.
- If partner has the diamond queen, you can carry on playing diamonds from the top or perhaps lead a low diamond to partner's queen.

Rules for playing to partner's king leads against no-trumps

See the table below for examples.

- If partner leads a king, you play any honour you hold at trick one.
- Without an honour, give a count signal: play high-low with two or four cards, and low-high with three cards.

In the problem posed, the opening leader knows partner does not have the diamond queen. In the table above, on Deal 1 partner has one or three diamonds; declarer probably has ♦Q-x-x, so switching to another suit makes sense. On Deal 2 partner has one or three diamonds and declarer has either ♦Q-x or ♦Q-x-x-x; play the diamond ace hoping the queen drops. On Deal 3 partner has only one or two diamonds – hope it is the two, and switch to another suit and wait for partner to gain the lead and play a diamond through declarer.

West leads ♥K from	East has	East plays	Why
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ Q 9 4	♥Q	Play honour
♥ K Q 10 9 7	♥ J 4 2	♥J	Play honour
♥ A K Q 10	♥ J 4 2	♥J	Play honour
♥ K Q J 10 9	♥ A 3	♥A	Play honour
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ 7 2	♥ 7	Show two
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ 7 6 2	♥ 2	Show three
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ 7 6 4 2	♥ 6	Show four (or two)

The examples in the last table have been taken from *Really Easy Defence*. □

TEACHER'S REPORT

THE Weald of Kent Duplicate Bridge Club recently invited students from my classes to come along for a taster of club bridge. Club members were forewarned of the event; all students sat E/W; a host was available; and the Director relaxed the pace of play and announced that 'the students could do no wrong!'

Fifteen students attended and the afternoon was so successful that we are going to repeat it later in the summer and possibly make it a regular feature in our programme of events. The students made the effort, some travelling quite a distance, realising this was an opportunity not to be missed. We have gone some way in dispelling the hard image of club bridge. *Val Golding*

The Two-minute Interview

Janet de Botton



JANET de Botton is the captain and sponsor of the team that has won both the Crockfords Cup and the Hubert Phillips Bowl in 2007.

What is your main occupation?

Tate Trustee for ten years.

When did you start playing bridge?

I learnt with David Parry in 1998, and started playing rubber bridge a year later.

How long had you been playing before your first major success?

Six years. My team won the National Swiss Teams in January 2003. I played with Jason Hackett, and Nick Sandqvist played with John Holland.

What made you decide to compete in the Open field rather than in Women's bridge?

I needed all my time and energy to develop my team and consequently I never played with a woman player enough to form a partnership.

What would you change in bridge?

I don't think enough emphasis is put on partnerships. There are many good individual players in England but I don't think we have a successful world challenging team because we have so few developed partnerships. I also think sponsors should be encouraged more by the EBU, as great players need to be nurtured and looked after. I'm good at that!

What are your hobbies outside bridge?

None!