Card Play by Defenders
2nd Hand Low 3rd Hand High

Presenter/s
Date

CARD PLAY BY DEFENDERS - Cover an Honour with an Honour

BV BRIDGE VICTORIA

1

	Dummy ♥ Q 2	
♥ 8 5 4 3	N W E S	♥ K T 9
	♥ A J 7 6 Declarer	

West leads a ♥ & Dummy plays ♥Q

East should play ♥K

Assume South has ♥A & will take your ♥K, but look at your 10 & 9. One of these will be "promoted"

2

	Dummy ♥ Q J 9	
♥ T 8 3 2	N W E S	♥ K 6 4
	♥ A 7 5 Declarer	

West leads a ♥ & Dummy plays ♥Q

East should play ♥4. Do not cover the first honour of a sequence, wait until **last honour in sequence**

If East plays ♥K declarer can finesse West's ♥T

Bridge NSW

CARD PLAY BY DEFENDERS - 2nd Hand Low Exceptions

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1. **You can get the contract down (Ace may be ruffed later)**
2. **Typically cover an honour with an honour but:**
   a. **Don't cover first honour, cover the second**
   b. **You can see you're promoting Dummy's cards**

	Dummy ♥ A K T 9
♥ Q 8 7 6	N W

If South leads ♥J, West should play low otherwise just promoting North's 10 & 9

3. **You know partner has singleton/void. That singleton may be the K!**
4. **Splitting Honours (KQ)**

Dummy ♥ J 6 2	
N E	♥ Q 5 3

♥J led by dummy, play low

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CARD PLAY BY DEFENDERS - 3rd Hand High as Necessary

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1

	Dummy ♥ J 6 4	
♥ 5	N W E S	♥ Q T 2
	♥ ? Declarer	

West leads ♥5. **East should play ♥T**

Normally play your highest card (eg if held ♥Q 8 2 play ♥Q).

Here play ♥T & save ♥Q to cover ♥J. Play ♥9 from ♥Q T 9

2

	Dummy ♥ 6 5	
West ♥K Q 3 2	N W E S	**East** ♥J T 9 8 7
	♥ A 4 Declarer	

Against 3NT, West leads ♥2 to dummy's ♥5 & East's ♥7 & Declarer's ♥A.

West now knows East has ♥J T 9 8 remaining. *(Declarer surely would have played one of these if had one)*

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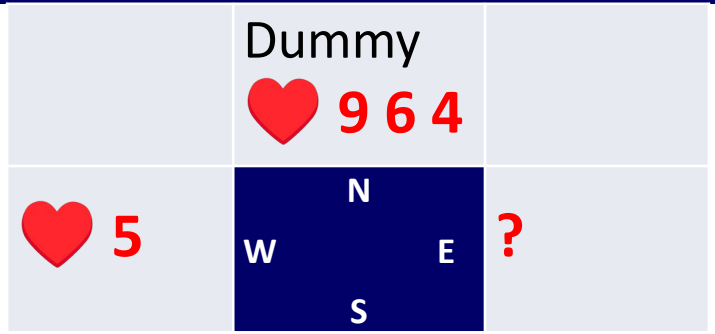
CARD PLAY BY DEFENDERS - 3rd Hand High as Necessary



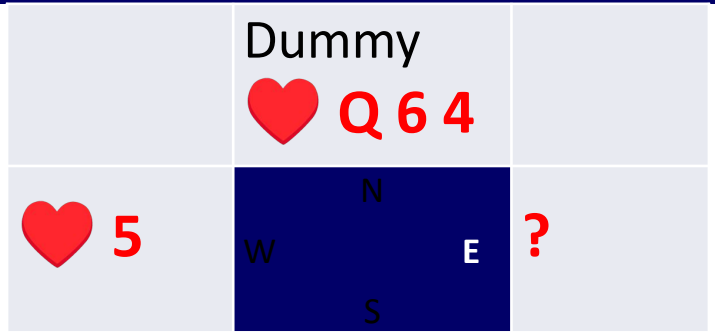
In situation above which card should East play from the following:

- ♥ **A K 3 - K** (I may have the A but not the Q)
- ♥ **A Q 3 - A** (I do not have the K)
- ♥ **Q J 7 - J** (I may have the Q but not the 10)
- ♥ **Q J T - T** (I may have J & Q but not the 8. *The 9 is in Dummy*)
- ♥ **K J T - K** (I do not have the Q)

CARD PLAY BY DEFENDERS - 3rd Hand High as Necessary

BV BRIDGE VICTORIA

1



When there is an honour in dummy, try to retain a card to "cover" the honour

In situation above which card should East play from the following:

- ♥ **K J 3** - **J** (no need to play K)
- ♥ **K J T** - **T** (lowest of equals)
- ♥ **A J 3** - **J** (partner led a low card & may hold **K**)
- ♥ **K T 3** - **T** (keep **K** to "cover" **Q**)
- ♥ **A 8 3** - **A** (3rd hand high)

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CARD PLAY BY DEFENDERS - 3rd Hand High Exceptions

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1. If hold touching honours play lowest in sequence, eg KQ6
2. If cannot beat Dummy (say A played), or if partner leads an honour, give an attitude signal
3. Play in between card: Partner leads the ♦4 & dummy has ♦Q87 & plays low. Play ♦J from ♦KJ3
4. If playing high promotes dummy's cards, eg the ♦Q is led from dummy's ♦QT9. Playing the ♦K just promotes dummy's T and 9

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CARD PLAY BY DEFENDERS - Other 3rd Hand Considerations

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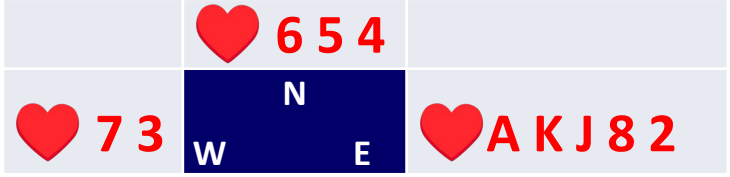
1. Unblock (in NT if partner leads ♥Q & you hold ♥K 8 - play ♥K. Partner has the long suit
2. In NT, both 3rd hand & Declarer can use the Rule of 11. If the Rule doesn't work Partner has likely led top of nothing
3. When returning partner's suit, return the higher of 2 remaining cards, the lowest of 3 remaining cards
4. In NT look to preserve communications with partner by letting Declarer win any trick she has coming, but keeping a card to return partner's lead.



West leads ♥7. East recognises this as the top of a doubleton & lets South win first trick so West still has a ♥ to return

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