

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

	N	E	S	W
♠965				
♥943		1♥	1♠	2♥
♦K653	2♠	P	P	P
♣AQ10				
♠J42	♠87			
♥KQ8	♥AJ752			
♦972	♦AQJ			
♣K865	♣732			
♠AKQ103				
♥106				
♦1084				
♣J94				

West leads the King of Hearts (promising the Queen) against this 2 spade contract.

This is the correct time for East to starting thinking about how to defeat the contract. It is apparent that the defense has 2 heart tricks (declarer cannot have more than 2 hearts due to partner's raise). What other tricks are available to E/W? Obviously diamonds! How can you suggest to partner that she discontinue YOUR suit and switch?

DISCOURAGE the continuation of hearts by playing the DEUCE. This does not deny the Ace, it asks partner to look at the dummy and figure out something else to do. In this example it is clear that partner wants a diamond shift. IF West stops the "heart attack" now, and plays a diamond, East will win. Return a heart to partner's Queen (another reason for leading TOUCHING honors). West can shift back to diamonds. East will take the next two diamond tricks with her high cards. Now, for lack of anything better to do (the defense cannot score any club tricks regardless where the King and Jack are located), she can play the 4th round of clubs. Indeed, this will result in a trump trick for West. Nice defense.