

## NSWBA MONDAY NIGHT 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016

### TALK WITH PAUL LAVINGS – DEFENCE CHECKLIST

Defence, defence, defence. Making those -620s into +100s and -90s into +50s will transform your score sheet and your results. Most players and partnerships put far too little time into their defence.

Try this defensive checklist to see what you can be doing to improve your defence:

- 1 Every defence starts with an opening lead and the science of opening leads has been turned on its head in the last five years. Do you much prefer major suit leads against NT contracts? And do you prefer short suit leads, doubletons and singletons, against suit contracts? Do you avoid leading from honours against suit contracts? You should, very much so.
- 2 These days there is much more emphasis on suit preference signals (SPS). When dummy has a singleton 3<sup>rd</sup> hand will give suit preference when the leader is clearly going to hold the trick. See Hand 1.
- 3 When the opening leader's partner is known to hold a certain number of cards in the suit led they revert to SPS. See Hand 2.
- 4 Do you signal SPS in the trump suit? SPS in the trump suit is arguably one of the major advances in bridge over the last 20 years. See Hand 3.
- 5 You may even be able to give suit preference with your lead when you have a void and you want partner to give you a ruff.
- 6 How do you count trumps? During war time spies were often found out because we all count in our native tongue. Counting is very ingrained and it is difficult to change the way we count. However, it is much easier to count how many are in the other two hands looking at your hand and dummy.
- 7 Try to count your winners as early as possible in the hand since this is the clue to the winning defence. If declarer is in 4H you need 4 tricks, where will they come from? See Hand 4.
- 8 Try to construct declarer's hand in your mind. Let's say you lead the 4 from Q8642 against 3NT, dummy has 75, partner plays the J losing to declarer's Ace. What is going on?
- 9 Are your signalling methods effective? Sometimes attitude is necessary and sometimes count is more important. If you play reverse count you should be playing the highest from 3, sometimes even if it's a 10 or a J. After all, if you play standard count you wouldn't play the middle one to show an odd number, you would always play the lowest. Same thing.
- 10 Avoid odd/even discards. You will always have a high card or a low card but you won't always have an odd or an even card.

## HANDS FOR DEFENCE TALK

<p><b>Hand 1</b></p> <p>Dealer W NS Vul</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠QJ109 ♥AKQ2 ♦5 ♣KJ87</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠75</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">♠AK32</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥654</td> <td></td> <td>♥93</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦AKJ643</td> <td></td> <td>♦Q97</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣64</td> <td></td> <td>♣Q952</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♠864</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♥J1087</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♦1085</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣A103</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3D</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>4D</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West led DK. A switch to either black suit could be right but E made things easy by dropping DQ a SPS for spades. Thus 4H was defeated.</p>	♠75		♠AK32		♥654		♥93		♦AKJ643		♦Q97		♣64		♣Q952							♠864				♥J1087				♦1085				♣A103				West	North	East	South		3D	Dble	4D	Pass		Pass	Dble	Pass	4H		All pass				<p><b>Hand 2</b></p> <p>Dealer W EW Vul</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠1082 ♥Q102 ♦AJ8 ♣AQ52</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠AKJ94</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">♠753</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥K5</td> <td></td> <td>♥943</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦764</td> <td></td> <td>♦KQ95</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣1074</td> <td></td> <td>♣J63</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♠Q6</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♥AJ876</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♦1032</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣K98</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Robert</td> <td></td> <td>Paul</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1S</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2S</td> <td>3H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Robert lead SK, then 2-7-6. When the length in a suit is known in defence, we auto revert to SPS. The raise to 2S shows exactly 3S so spade 7 is an SPS for diamonds. If Robert takes another top spade or switches to a club 3H makes but he switched at trick 2 to a diamond. I won DQ and returned S5, another SPS for diamonds. After SA another diamond through collected 5 tricks for the defence.</p>	♠AKJ94		♠753		♥K5		♥943		♦764		♦KQ95		♣1074		♣J63							♠Q6				♥AJ876				♦1032				♣K98				West	North	East	South		Robert		Paul			1S	Dble	2S	3H		All pass								
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