

Defence swings IMPs

We bid it, can you beat it?

by RAKESH KUMAR



Rakesh Kumar describes himself as an enthusiast who makes enough errors to have plenty of material for bridge columns.

This month's column is a collection of deals from assorted events – in every case, however, the focus is on defence. Swings in IMP events are often based on whether or not, having bid aggressively, the opponents are allowed to get away with making a contract that could have been defeated. Quite often, that might depend on the opening lead and/or how it's interpreted; or else on the continuation at trick 2 after dummy is revealed.

So here are some problems for you to consider. An easy one first up: RHO opens 4♠, vulnerable against not, and LHO raises to 6♠, which partner doubles. What are you going to lead?

♠
♥ 932
♦ KQ8762
♣ KQ63

Next, you are vulnerable and the opponents are not. As dealer, you open 1♥ and LHO overcalls 1S. Partner raises to 2♥, RHO bids 2♠, you bid 3♥ and LHO continues to 4♠. Partner leads ♥3 and you see this dummy:

♠ J92
♥ Q7
♦ J8543
♣ KT7


♠ 63
♥ AJ942
♦ AKT2
♣ Q2

How will you defend?

And finally, you are again vulnerable against opponents who are not vulnerable, and RHO opens 1♦ as dealer. You pass, LHO bids 1NT and partner overcalls 2♠. RHO rebids 3♣, you raise partner to 3♠ but North now jumps to 5♣. You lead ♠A and the trick goes ♠4, 5 and 8. What will you do at trick 2?

♠ 64
♥ QJ4
♦ J85
♣ KQ932

♠ AT32
♥ A973
♦ 62
♣ 864



Here's the deal associated with the first problem, from the recent ITS Swiss Pairs at the NSWBA.

Board 16

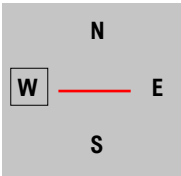
Dealer W | Vul EW

♠ 932
♥ KQ8762
♦ KQ63

♠ AKJT6432
♥ J5
♦ 742
♣ 742

♠ Q
♥ JT54
♦ AT943
♣ AT5

♠ 9875
♥ AKQ876
♦ J98



	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	3	-	-	-
S	2	4	-	-	-
E	-	-	2	4	-
W	-	-	2	4	-

Clearly the opponents have very distributional hands. Therefore it makes sense to lead your shorter suit, so you should lay down ♣K and when that holds, follow with a low club. The contract then goes 2 down, but otherwise declarer will take 13 tricks, as some did!!

The second deal is from a recent North Shore Bridge Club online teams event, now in its correct orientation. Partner's lead of a low heart promises an honour and the single raise makes it clear that she has only 3-4 hearts, so you must not rise with ♥A. If you insert ♥J, declarer can make only 9 tricks, but the majority of Wests were allowed to get away with +170/200, +420/450 or even +690!

Board 15

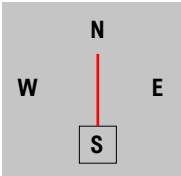
Dealer S | Vul NS

♠ 87
♥ T83
♦ Q976
♣ AJ65

♠ AKQT54
♥ K65
♦ 9843
♣ 9843

♠ J92
♥ Q7
♦ J8543
♣ KT7

♠ 63
♥ AJ942
♦ AKT2
♣ Q2



	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	1	-	-
S	-	2	1	-	-
E	1	-	-	4	1
W	1	-	-	3	1

The third deal, which was also rotated for the problem, comes from the first night of the NSWBA GNOT Qualifying event that is currently in progress.

Board 28

Dealer W | Vul NS

<p>♠ 8</p> <p>♥ 62</p> <p>♦ AKQ943</p> <p>♣ AJT5</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">W</div>	<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">E</div>	<p>♠ AT32</p> <p>♥ A973</p> <p>♦ 62</p> <p>♣ 864</p> <p>♠ 64</p> <p>♥ QJ4</p> <p>♦ J85</p> <p>♣ KQ932</p> <p>♠ KQJ975</p> <p>♥ KT85</p> <p>♦ T7</p> <p>♣ 7</p>
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	3	3	-
S	-	-	3	3	-
E	4	4	-	-	-
W	4	4	-	-	-

After your ♠ A holds, you need to stop and think. For a sandwich-seat overcall at adverse vulnerability, partner is quite likely to have a 6-card suit, but must also have some outside values. So you should lay down ♥ A and look for partner's signal. When she encourages, a heart continuation sets the contract – but most of those sitting West raked in 11 or 12 tricks, sometimes leading to a swing of 7-10 IMPs. 🟩