

### For a Future Newsletter and Corner

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A basic defensive play missed.

Just as it is usually correct for declarer to pull trump so that the defenders don't trump declarer's winners, when a defender can pull trump to prevent declarer from trumping the defense's winners it is often correct to do so. It is especially correct when a defender can pull a trump from both declarer and dummy when the defense is only playing one trump (partner is out).

30	2♠N-2		100	61%	39%
31	4♠N+2	680		76.7%	23.3%

S 1NT

W P

N P

E 2H (Capeletti, hearts and a minor. I would have chosen to just show the diamonds, as I would want a diamond lead if South ends up declaring in notrump. I also think that a diamond contract is more likely to make than a heart contract when partner has 3 hearts.)

S P

W P

N 2S (North knows that N/S has just over half the high cards and that hearts will be splitting for E/W. I like the 2S balancing bid to stay at the 2 level; 3C is a bit much with five to the 10.)

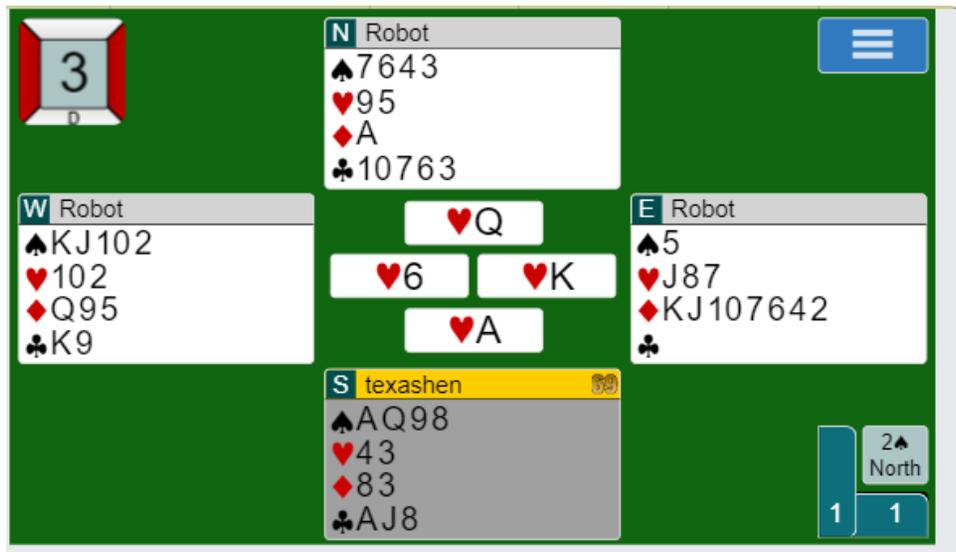
East leads the stiff 5 of clubs ducked to the Queen.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- North (Robot):** ♠7643, ♥Q95, ♦A, ♣10763
- West (Robot):** ♠KJ102, ♥1062, ♦Q95, ♣K9
- East (Robot):** ♠5, ♥KJ87, ♦KJ107642, ♣
- South (texashen):** ♠AQ98, ♥A43, ♦83, ♣AJ8
- Trick Board:** ♣2, ♣Q, ♣5, ♣4
- Score:** 2♠ North, 0-1
- Lead:** A card with the number 3 is shown in a red and white box.

I like the contract, 2S should make with a 4-4 spade split. However, everything is wrong for me. Trumps split 4-1, West has 3 natural trump tricks, the KQ of clubs is behind my AJ, and the KJ of hearts is behind dummy's queen.

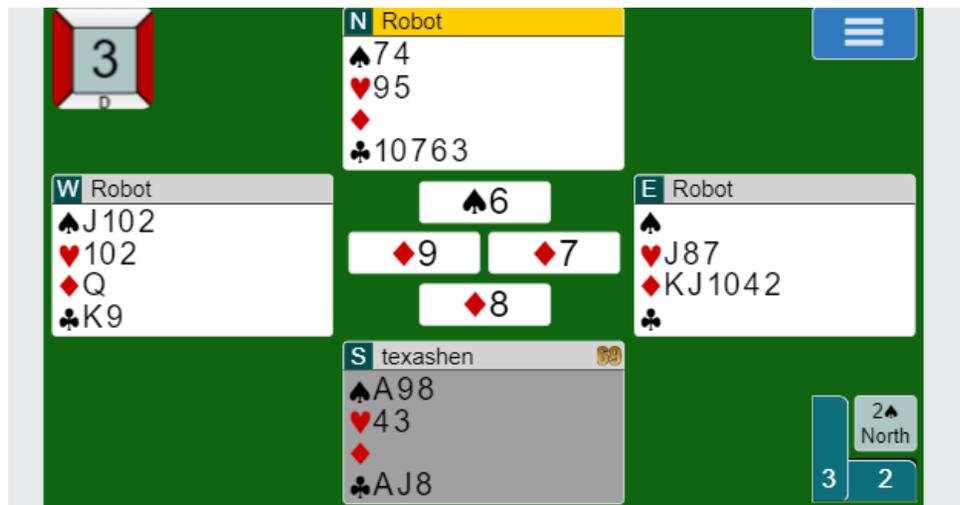
West returns the 6 of hearts, being unwilling to unguard the King of clubs. Q, K ace.



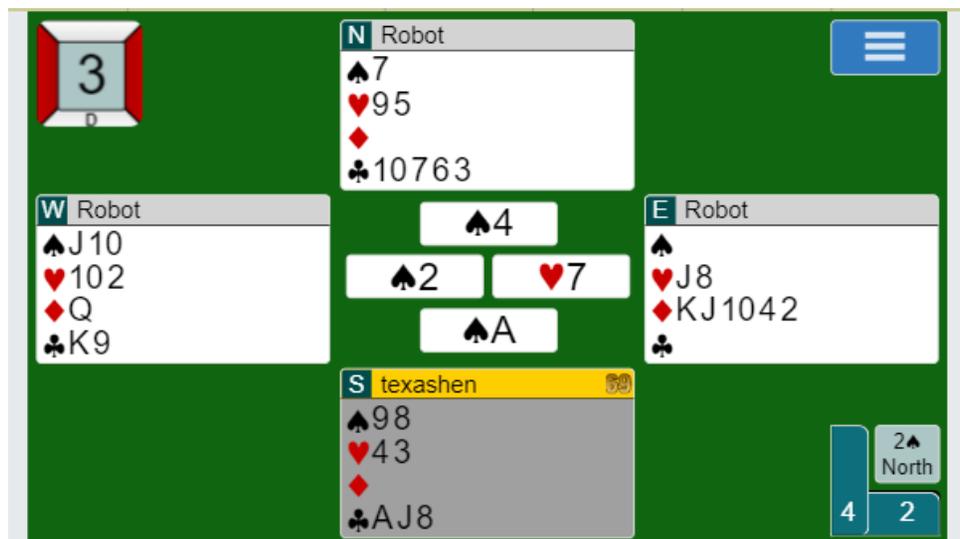
I cross to the Ace of diamonds to take the losing spade finesse. That's the second queen that was useless to me on this deal.



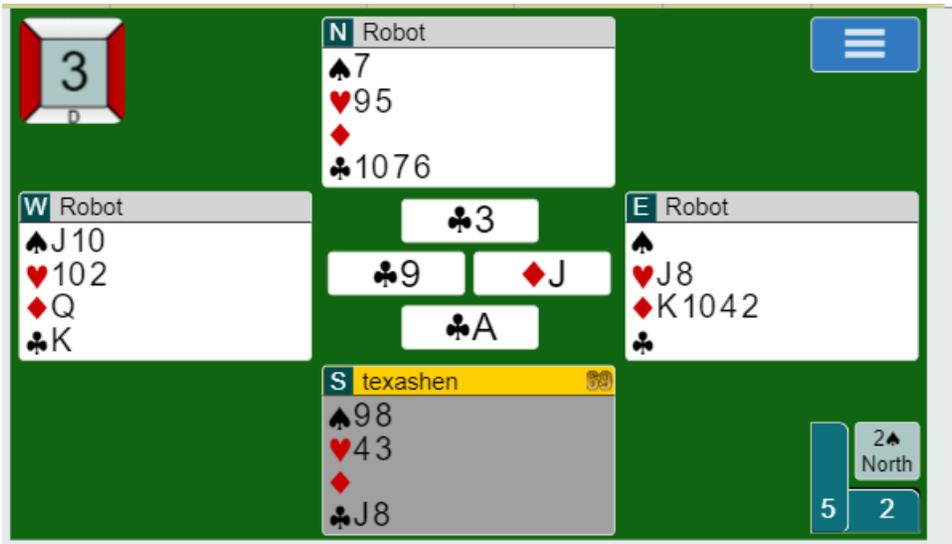
East returns the 9 of diamonds to give me the diamond ruff that I was going to get anyway.



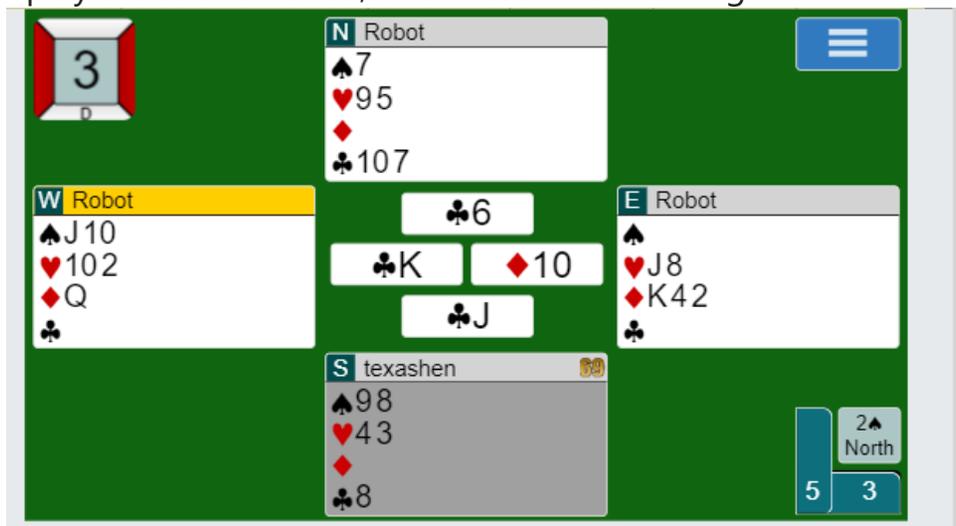
If I knew that spades were splitting badly, I would play clubs now. However, since I'm not ruffing anymore I play a spade from dummy. Then I make the careless mistake (this is a free game with no masterpoint or BBO point prizes, and I'm watching TV as I play this game.) of going up with the ace. I should have played the 9 or the 8.



I play the ace of clubs (hoping they split, they don't) and East signals with the Jack of diamonds for a diamond lead. I should lose the rest of the tricks now. But the defense blunders.

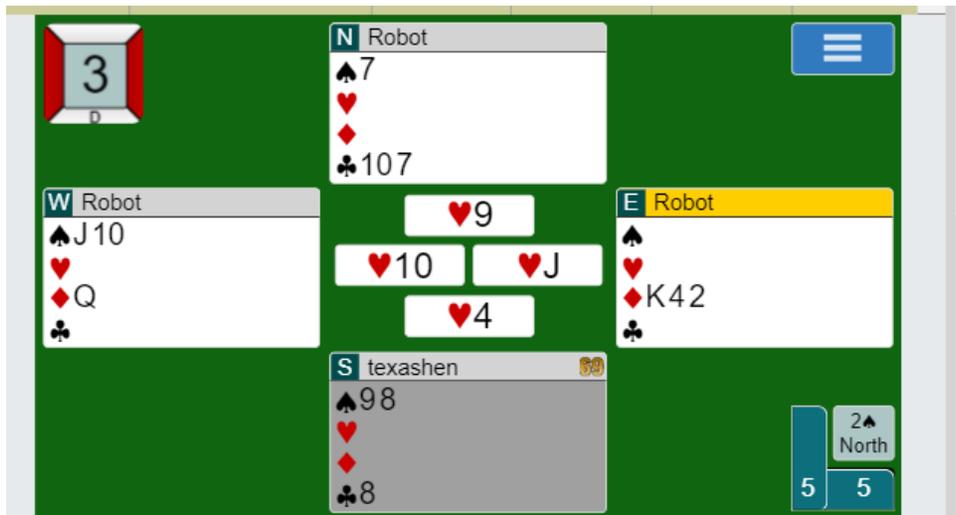


I play the Jack of clubs, and West wins the King.

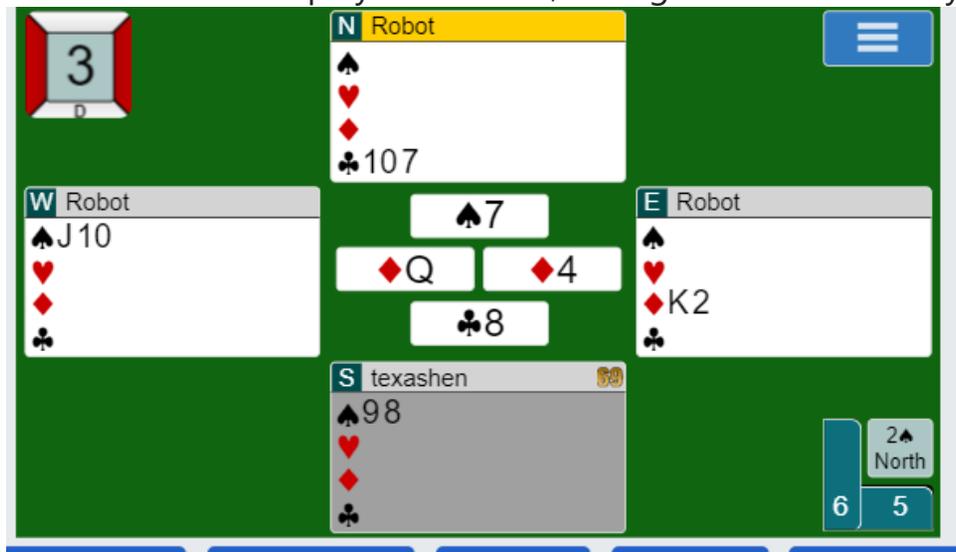


West should now pull my trumps with the J 10 (if I had kept my ace, that wouldn't have been possible). Then E/W take the rest of the tricks.

However West plays the 2 of hearts, disregarding partner's diamond signal. E/W take their 2 hearts



But now East must play a diamond, letting me ruff in dummy.



Giving me this trick turns a bad board into a good one for me.