

## prepared hands **defensive plays**

**hand 1**  
dealer north

♠ QJ9  
♥ 63  
♦ A9753  
♣ Q85

♠ 1087  
♥ QJ10754  
♦ QJ10  
♣ 3

♠ A32  
♥ K92  
♦ K862  
♣ AK7

♠ K654  
♥ A8  
♦ 4  
♣ J109642

<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
NB	NB	1D	NB
3D	NB	<b>3NT</b>	

West leads Q♥; East overtakes with A♥ and returns 8♥. When South wins, he tests diamonds to see if they split. When they divide badly, declarer's only hope is to tackle spades. He leads Q♠ from dummy and East should not cover. When this wins, J♠ is led and now East covers. This ensures that South cannot make more than two spade tricks. If East covers Q♠, South wins and then finesses West for 10♠ through dummy's ♠J9, and brings home the contract. When you can see touching honours, cover the last one.

**hand 2**  
dealer east

♠ K53  
♥ 64  
♦ QJ10965  
♣ 85

♠ 94  
♥ J10982  
♦ 83  
♣ J1074

♠ QJ76  
♥ AKQ7  
♦ K4  
♣ AK3

♠ A1082  
♥ 53  
♦ A72  
♣ Q962

<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
-	NB	2NT	NB
<b>3NT</b>			

West leads J♥ and South wins with K♥, and leads K♦. From East's point of view, the whole hand is about stopping South from making diamond tricks. He has A♠ sitting over dummy's K♠, and control of diamonds themselves. West plays 8♦ suggesting an even number (hi-lo = even; lo-hi = odd number of cards in the suit). East ducks this, but wins the second round now that he can count that South has no more. Now, if East ensures that South cannot use K♠ as an entry, declarer will be a trick short.

**hand 3**  
dealer south

♠ 93  
♥ J65  
♦ KJ1085  
♣ KJ5

♠ A10765  
♥ 873  
♦ A43  
♣ 107

♠ K42  
♥ AK4  
♦ Q62  
♣ A864

♠ QJ8  
♥ Q1092  
♦ 97  
♣ Q932

<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
-	-	1C	NB
1D	NB	1NT	NB
<b>3NT</b>			

West leads 6♠ and East plays J♠; declarer K♠. East knows that West has A♠, probably a 5-card suit. East needs to indicate that he has Q♠ so West can lead to him and they can take four spade tricks. When South plays diamonds, West ducks twice and when he wins the third round, East can discard. Either play 10♥ or 9♣ as a Suit Preference discard for the highest ranking suit or, better still, throw Q♠ away to tell West that you have it!

**hand 4**  
dealer west

♠ 72  
♥ 765  
♦ AKQ752  
♣ AK

♠ QJ1093  
♥ AJ104  
♦ 3  
♣ 742

♠ K64  
♥ K98  
♦ J86  
♣ Q865

♠ A85  
♥ Q32  
♦ 1094  
♣ J1093

<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
1D	NB	1NT	NB
<b>3NT</b>			

With six beautiful diamonds, North should punt 3NT. West leads Q♠; East must think hard before playing. In dummy, he can see six diamond tricks (South must hold at least two cards in diamonds) and two clubs. South also holds K♠. That is nine tricks. Therefore, there is only one chance: West has ♥AJ10x. East wins A♠ and, realising that he must take four tricks now, leads Q♥. Whatever South does, he is down. If East leads 2♥, South can cover and West is stuck on lead.