

Lesson on Covering

**Board 4**

West Deals  
Both Vul

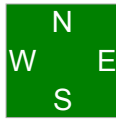
♠ A K J 9 7 4 3

♥ 5 3

♦ 4

♣ 10 7 5

♠ Q 2  
♥ J 10 8 7 6  
♦ J 10 7 3  
♣ Q 8



♠ 10 6  
♥ A K 9 4  
♦ K Q 9 6  
♣ J 3 2

♠ 8 5

♥ Q 2

♦ A 8 5 2

♣ A K 9 6 4

NS 4♠; NS 4♣; NS 2N; EW 1♦; Par +620

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠

All pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ A

N/S wound up in a 4 spade contract. East led the ace of hearts and West played the 8.

East now led a small diamond and the declarer won the ace. After drawing trump, declarer led the ten of clubs and East covered with the jack and declarer was able to make 12 tricks.

While there are times to cover an honor (or a ten), this was not one of them.

Lesson Objective – When you have an honor in a suit it should not be automatic to cover.

Many times (as in this lesson) you may have three cards (or 4) to an honor and partner has a doubleton. With the ace/king in dummy and the queen missing covering the ten is a big mistake. It is imperative that you make some attempt to determine partner's likely holding in the suit led. Even covering a queen with a doubleton king could lose a trick if partner has a singleton ace.

4 pairs made more than the 10 tricks they should score. Of course this could be that the defense failed to take their other heart trick after winning a club trick (some North's might finesse the ten of clubs if East does not cover) and West must choose between leading a heart or a diamond.

Open Pairs

Contract	Made	Lead	Scores		Matchpoints	
			N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
4 ♠ N	6	♥ A	680		6.93	0.07
4 ♠ N	4	♥ A	620		5.79	1.21
3 ♠ N	5	♥ A	200		3.50	3.50
3 ♠ N	5	♥ A	200		3.50	3.50
3 ♠ N	5	♥ A	200		3.50	3.50
3 ♠ N	4	♥ A	170		0.64	6.36
3 ♠ N	4	♥ A	170		0.64	6.36