

## Jim's Lessons - Week 4 Hand # 3 Playing Defense:

### Breaking a Different Suit While You Still Have the Lead

East Deals N-S Vul	♠ Q 10 3 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ Q J 5 4 3 ♣ K 3	♠ 9 8 5 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ A 7 ♣ A Q J 9 2			
♠ A K J 6 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 10 6 2 ♣ 10 5 4	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ 7 4 ♥ A K Q J 3 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ 8 7 6
N					
W     E					
S					

**Contract:** 3♠ by West

**Lead:** A♥

**Bidding:**

	N	E	S	W
		P	1H	1S
	2H	3H	P	3S
	All Pass			

**Makeable Contracts:** EW 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1N;

While the “Makeable Contracts” list states that E/W can make only 3S (with the necessary defense), in order to hold the declarer to only 9 tricks, the defenders after playing two rounds of hearts must then switch to a diamond in order to be able to set up a diamond trick before declarer can discard all of his diamond losers on the club suit. While it might seem to be a bad play to lead from a king looking at the ace to your right on this hand (looking at the source of tricks declarer has in clubs) it is a play that should not cost you a trick.

Good defense has to look forward to what can happen if they.....in this case lead a third heart.

**Defenders Tip:** Count the Expected Declarer’s Tricks  
The defender South can expect that E/W (given enough time) can most likely make:

- 4 or 5 spades
- 5 clubs
- Ace of diamonds

So leading from the king of diamonds will most likely not cost the defenders a trick but might gain them one. If South decides to lead another heart then declarer can ruff in the dummy and then take the spade finesse. When that loses to North declarer can win the diamond return, lead a spade to his hand to finish drawing trump and then take the club finesse allowing him to make 10 tricks instead of 9.

On this hand, since one of the defenders has the queen of spades and can ruff the third lead of a club before declarer can throw away all his diamond losers, it pays for the defender South to lead back a diamond.