

Further Deception

TO THE EDITOR:

This is October 2024 Test Your Play Problem B:

Rubber bridge
South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

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NORTH
♠ J 6
♥ Q 6 2
♦ 7 6 5
♣ K Q 7 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10
♥ J 5
♦ K Q 10 4 3
♣ A 2

* * *

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

Heart ten, deuce, three, ?

Plan the play.

The analysis cleverly takes advantage of the fact that the defenders know little about declarer's hand and do not know that the spade jack is an entry. Hence, they are likely to give true count in clubs. Thus, the recommended line is a low club to dummy's king. Then, if clubs appear to be three-three, run the black suits to make the contract.

It continues: "If you think clubs are four-two, . . . unblock clubs and knock out the ace of diamonds." That path seems questionable. First, the unblock will reveal the club situation and make it more likely that you will fail when defenders can take four heart tricks. Second, you can take further advantage of the defenders' ignorance. A low diamond from dummy after winning with the club king has strong potential to lead East to duck, since he does not know the location of the club ace and may not know that hearts are running. West might duck with, say, ace-

third in the hope that his partner started with jack-low. Third, a diamond from dummy might see the contract home when hearts are four-four and diamonds lie favorably—you give up on clubs and lead diamonds twice from dummy.