


## Danger Hand High - Part 2

By Eric Rodwell

*Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth, otherwise known as Meckwell, are generally considered to be the best pair in the world at the moment. This is partly because of their bidding system, which is awesome in its complexity. This partnership has won the triple crown: the Bermuda Bowl (in 1981 and 1995), World Pairs (1986) and World Teams Olympiad (1988).*

*Born in 1957, Eric is the younger half of the partnership (but not by much) and is also the chief theoretician. He is also an extremely accomplished pianist and can often be persuaded to entertain the guests at post-final-banquet celebrations. When he is not travelling the international bridge circuit, he lives in Indiana with his wife, Donna.*

Try this defensive problem:

<b>Board 15</b>			
South Deals		♠ 4 3	
N-S Vul		♥ 4 3 2	
		♦ A 10 6 5	
		♣ A K Q 2	
♠ Q 6 5			
♥ K Q J 10 5			
♦ Q 4 3			
♣ 4 3			
West	North	East	South
Pass	3 NT	All pass	1 NT <sup>1</sup>
1. 15-17			

You lead the king of hearts, ducked, and follow with the queen and jack of hearts to declarer's ace, partner pitching a spade on the third round. Declarer leads the two of diamonds to trick four. Plan your defense.

Partner has at most two high-card points, so declarer has the ace and king of spades, ace of hearts and king of diamonds for eight tricks. Thus, partner must have J-x-x-x in clubs if you are to have a chance. Declarer should also have either the jack of spades or jack of diamonds; if the jack of diamonds then you have no chance because he will play dummy's ten (finessing into the safe opponent) and take ten tricks. Thus you must hope declarer has something like:

♠ A K J x  
♥ A x x  
♦ K 9 x  
♣ x x x

and try to fool him. Start by playing 'danger hand high', the queen of diamonds, to deny him the avoidance play in diamonds. Now he will probably cash the ace of spades followed by three rounds of clubs, on which you pitch a diamond. Now he has to finesse the diamond to make 3NT, but you have given declarer two losing options:

- (1) finessing in spades;
- (2) trying to drop the jack of diamonds, then trying to drop the queen of spades.

If you had played low on the diamond lead, declarer would play dummy's ten, losing to partner's jack. Declarer would then win the spade return and test diamonds, claiming his nine tricks.

In summary, my tip is: Consider playing an unsupported honor, second in hand, especially if you are the dangerous opponent. At the least, it will give declarer a guess and may defeat the contract legitimately.