

# Play Your Long Suit Early II

By Patrick Jourdain

Here both defenders guard both majors, but the pressure still arises:

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

	♠ K 4 3										
	♥ K 6										
	♦ Q 10 8 2										
	♣ A 6 4 3										
♠ Q 10 5 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A J 8 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q 9 4 3		♥ J 10 5									
♦ 7		♦ A 6 4 3									
♣ 9 8 5 2		♣ J 10									
	♠ 9 7										
	♥ A 8 7 2										
	♦ K J 9 5										
	♣ K Q 7										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
Pass	3 NT	All pass	1 NT <sup>1</sup>								
	1. 12-14 HCP										

South opens 1NT and North raises to 3NT. If West leads a high spade the contract is defeated at once, but the normal choice is the two of spades.

East wins with the jack of spades and returns the jack of clubs. Declarer wins in hand and sets about the diamonds. East wins and leads a second club. The key moment has arrived. Declarer should be aware that he is facing five losers and will be playing off the diamonds next. If he ever hopes to set up a long heart, he will need an entry to reach it. So the second club must be won in dummy. Then come the rest of the diamonds. West can throw the queen of spades and a small heart, but what can he spare on the last diamond? If he throws another heart, he cannot gain the lead when the suit is established. If he throws the ten of spades, the nine is good enough to promote the king. And if West releases his small spade, the suit becomes blocked. Declarer plays off three rounds of hearts setting up his ninth trick and the defense cannot run their five.

A similar result occurs whatever East chooses to return when he is in, provided South concentrates on playing off all the diamonds before he tackles any other suit.

The pressure exerted on that deal was of an unfamiliar kind, but it is not necessary for declarer to understand exactly what is going on. It is enough to be aware of the possibilities.