

# Double End Play

This is not a good slam! After a diamond opening lead, even if trumps are 3-2 and the club finesse works, it still looks as if declarer must lose a heart and a spade for down one. How does declarer avoid that spade loser?

West's three spade overcall (showing seven spades) points the way to the winning line. Declarer wins the opening lead with the  $\spadesuit K$ , and now proceeds to remove all of East's safe exit cards. At trick two he takes the club finesse, and then cashes the  $\heartsuit K$ , back to hand with the  $\heartsuit A$ , and another club. After declarer has taken his minor suit winners, the  $\spadesuit A$  is cashed, at which point East is down to the  $\heartsuit Q$

and two clubs. Declarer now throws in East with a trump, and East is forced to return a club, allowing declarer a "ruff and sluff", whereby one hand pitches a (spade) loser and the other one takes the ruff. That's a pretty elimination play for twelve tricks.

Strangely enough, if South declares six notrump, there is a totally different elimination play, this time directed against West. Say that West leads a diamond as before. Declarer wins, finesses the club, returns to hand with another diamond, and plays off the rest of the clubs and diamonds. By now, West is down to  $\heartsuit J6$  and  $\spadesuit KJT5$ . Dummy's  $\heartsuit K$  is cashed and a heart is run around to West's jack. West must return a spade and that gives declarer the twelfth trick. West might try and wriggle out of the end-play by throwing his  $\heartsuit J$  under the  $\heartsuit K$ , but to no avail as that only serves to set up a heart finesse against East.

## Board 3

South Deals  
E-W Vul

$\spadesuit$ A 8		$\spadesuit$ 9									
$\heartsuit$ K 9 8 7		$\heartsuit$ Q 5 3									
$\diamondsuit$ A J 10 8		$\diamondsuit$ 9 7 6 4									
$\clubsuit$ A J 8		$\clubsuit$ 9 7 6 5 2									
$\spadesuit$ K J 10 6 5 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;"> </td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
$\heartsuit$ J 6		$\spadesuit$ Q 7 4									
$\diamondsuit$ 3 2		$\heartsuit$ A 10 4 2									
$\clubsuit$ K 3		$\diamondsuit$ K Q 5									
		$\clubsuit$ Q 10 4									

West	North	East	South
3 $\spadesuit$	Dbl	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$
Pass	6 $\heartsuit$	All pass	4 $\heartsuit$
Lead: $\diamondsuit$ 3			