

Counsel for the Defence 68 – Quiz

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 7 6
♥ 8 4 3
♦ A 10 4 2
♣ A 9 7



♠ A 10 3 2
♥ J 5 2
♦ 9 8
♣ K Q J 10

West North East South

Pass 1NT¹ Pass

2NT All pass

1. 12-14

Q1: EW have a routine auction to 2 NT. Once you see dummy, you can calculate partner's points very accurately - what is North's playing strength?

You lead K♣, declarer holding up twice then winning the third round in dummy.

Trick 1: you lead K♣: K-7-4-5

Trick 2: you lead 10♣: 10-9-3-8

Q2: Why play the Ten specifically on the second round?

Trick 3: you lead Q♣: Q♣-A♣-2♣-3♦

Declarer plays a low spade to her Queen in hand. You decide to win this and cash your last club.

Trick 4: dummy leads 6♠: 6-5-Q-A

Trick 5: you lead J♣: J♣-3♥-6♣-5♦

Q3: Do you agree with winning the first spade round?

The defence has started well, and now you must decide how to proceed.

Q4: What clues do you have about the closed hands? What do you lead to the next trick, and why?

Post Mortem

Q5: Do you agree with the opponents' bidding sequence?

Q6: Do you agree with declarer's line of play? With 20-20 vision of all of the cards, how would declarer have played differently?

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 7 5 2
♥ A Q 9 7 3
♦ —
♣ A Q 7 2



♠ J 10 6
♥ 8 6
♦ K Q 10 8 7
♣ K 9 6

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♦ ¹	Dbf	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

1. good S raise

Q1: Do you agree with the South overcall?

Q2: What do you understand by partner's double of West's cuebid?

You kick off with the K♦ which is ruffed in dummy: you lead K♦-2 ♠-6 ♦-2 ♦

Declarer plays a round of trumps, then takes a successful club finesse:

Trick 2: dummy leads 5 ♠: 5-3-K-6

Trick 3: declarer leads 3 ♣: 3-6-Q-4

Now declarer cashes the A♥ and ruffs a heart

Trick 4: dummy leads A♥: A-4-2-8

Trick 5: dummy leads 3 ♥: 3 ♥-5 ♥-4 ♠-6 ♥

Now declarer ruffs a diamond in dummy, and then ruffs another heart in hand

Trick 6: declarer leads 4 ♦: 4 ♦-7 ♦-7 ♠-3 ♦

Trick 7: dummy leads 7 ♥: 7 ♥-10 ♥-8 ♠-?

Q3: What are your thoughts about the defence in general, and how specifically do you play now?

Post Mortem

Q4: Do you agree with the bidding decisions of the other players?

Q5: Could declarer have made the contract?

Q6: How would you have fared in a diamond contract?

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 5

♥ 9 7 3 2

♦ A 10 9 8 7 3

♣ 7



♠ 7 6

♥ K 8 6 4

♦ K J 6

♣ K Q 5 3

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♦	3♣ ¹	3♠	All pass

1. weak, 5+C

Bidding notes:

a) You are playing 5 card majors and a Strong No Trump, so 1 Club is the opening bid for South.

b) You have agreed that same suit jump raises in competition are weak, so do not expect many points for partner's action

Q1: Would you consider East's Three Spades to be forcing or non-forcing?

Q2: What opening leads do you consider, and which do you choose?

Suppose you choose K♣, and see Trick 1 go: K♣: K-7-2-4

Q3: You have agreed to play count signals on King leads. Given this, what is the probable club position?

Q4: What is your general defensive plan, and what specifically do you do next?

Post Mortem

Q5: Do you agree with the opponents' bidding decisions?

Q6: Could declarer have made her contract?

Q7: How would you have fared in Three Clubs?

