

# 44.2024 – Defensive Errors

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## Dealer S Nil Vul

Here are some useful tips in Defending:

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	984	
	J2	
	Q983	
	10752	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
A632		Q
10763		985
AJ76		1052
Q		AKJ983
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	KJ1075	
	AKQ4	
	K4	
	64	

## Bidding

South	West	North	East
1S	P	2S (1)	3C
4S (2)	P	P	P

(1) Promises 6-9 Points, should Pass

(2) Perfectly reasonable given what Partner has promised with 2S bid

## Lead: CQ

You look at Dummy. Things look bleak. 2 Club losers, maybe a Ruff, DA and 1 or 2 Spades = Down 1 to 2 Tricks, maybe more if Spades break very badly

What was Partner thinking with the 2S bid?

CQ wins, and suddenly West switches to H3 (maybe he has no more Clubs, South thinks?)

**First error by the Defence:** East should overtake CQ with CK and continue with CA and a third Club (hoping West can over-ruff South). East has 6 Clubs, can see 4 in Dummy and West has led a Club. So, Declarer has 0, 1 or 2 Clubs. Overtake CQ with CA, play CK (it holds) and a small Club (not wanting to promote C10 in Dummy by playing CJ). South should Ruff with S7, not wanting S6 to win if he Ruffs below this. West may or may not win with SA (does not matter)

Hoping to get to Dummy to finesse SQ, South plays D4 and.....West goes up with DA

**Second error by the Defence:** West should be patient in Defence – if South has DK, when it is played, West will win with the DA. The rule in Defence is the Ace is meant to capture the King or the Queen

Due to these 2 errors, South makes the Contract – losing SA, DA and CQ. NS have only 19 Points

### **MORAL OF THE STORY**

Defence is about counting and patience. Here East (not overtaking CQ) and West (playing DA early) allowed South to make 4S, instead of going down

**Ian Morison**

Friday 15 November 2024