

36.2024 – Lead Up to an Honour Card

1. Dealer West All Vul

Declarer missed a safety play here

	NORTH	
	82	
	K853	
	QJ62	
	AQ5	
	WEST	EAST
	109643	KQJ5
	A74	1062
	A	K985
	9642	J3
	SOUTH	
	A7	
	QJ9	
	10743	
	K1087	

The Bidding was:

West	North	East	South
P	1D	P	3D (1)
P	P	P	

(1) 10 - 12 Points, 4 Card support

East led SK, Declarer took SA in Dummy and played D10

West won DA (Singleton). Now there is no way for Declarer to avoid 3 Diamonds and a Spade and a Heart loser, down 1

Had Declarer led a small Diamond from Dummy, West must put up DA, and Declarer only loses 2 Diamonds

MORAL OF THE STORY

Declarer will be fine if Diamonds break 3:2, but if they break 4:1, then there may be 3 losers in Trumps given D9 and D8 are also missing

Declarer has no guide which way to play Diamonds. But taking a 50:50 chance by leading up to DQ and DJ, or the other way leading up to D10 improves the odds of making. Here leading a small Diamond from Dummy after winning SA makes the Contract

There are many systems and conventions in Bridge named after icons of the game or places the game is played – Goren, Stayman, Acol, McKenny, Blackwood. I don't profess to be an icon, merely a victim

or a casualty, of the game. But I propose naming the 'lead up to' convention the 'Morison' – lead up to an Honour when you can!

Ian Morison

Friday 20th September 2024

[39 Years ago today, CGT began in Australia, a milestone you must not forget]