

## 23 - 2023 – Patience in Defence

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Being patient when defending is important. Often, it feels good to cash your winners, but it can give the Contract away. Here is a good example

Dealer E, N-S Vul

	<b>1053</b>	
	<b>87</b>	
	<b>J8754</b>	
	<b>AQJ</b>	
<b>62</b>		<b>K98</b>
<b>AK96542</b>		<b>J</b>
<b>963</b>		<b>KQ102</b>
<b>3</b>		<b>108762</b>
	<b>AQJ74</b>	
	<b>Q103</b>	
	<b>A</b>	
	<b>K954</b>	

**The Bidding:**

N	E	S	W
P	P	1S	3H (1)
P (2)	P	P	

(1) Weak, long suit

(2) I think North should have bid 3S over West's 3H bid, but North passed. That made it very hard for South to bid again, in search of the easy-to-make 4S. So 3H by West it was

**The Play:**

North led S3, West played S8 from Dummy, South played SJ, winning the trick

South then must take stock and ask: 'How do NS get 5 tricks in total, to take the Contract down?'

South should not cash SA – it simply sets up SK in Dummy. Given North did not support Spades, you have a clue that Declarer should have 1 or 2 more Spades

South could lead HQ, but if North has HA or HK this may give away a trick

Leading DA looks good if North can get in and give South a Diamond Ruff. But South has a sure Heart winner, so there is no point in Ruffing. Also, leading DA sets up DK and DQ in Dummy, without Declarer needing to find DJ

So, it should be a small Club

North wins and returns a Spade

NS then make 2 Spades, 1 Heart, 1 Diamond and 1 Club; contract is down 1

### **MORAL OF THE STORY**

In Defence, ask yourself how you can put the Contract down, and imagine what your Partner needs to achieve this. Then play that way

Do not cash your winners early, especially if it sets up tricks for Declarer. Patience is needed

**Ian Morison**

Bridge lover

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