

# Sequential End Plays

By Phi Sharpsteen

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ K Q 10 7 4  
♥ J 9 7  
♦ K 10 2  
♣ K 6

♠ 2  
♥ 8 5 4 3  
♦ 8 7 5  
♣ J 10 9 7 4

♠ A J 9  
♥ K 10 6  
♦ A J 9 3  
♣ Q 5 3

♠ 8 6 5 3  
♥ A Q 2  
♦ Q 6 4  
♣ A 8 2

2 ♠ by North  
Lead: ♣ 3

From the bidding, declarer could tell that East had all the missing high cards, except for at most one Jack. Putting East on lead at advantageous moments would give declarer extra tricks, he could not get by force.

East led the 3 of clubs which declarer won in hand with K. Declarer now set up a heart end play by taking the, known to be winning, heart finesse. Declarer now continued with the club ace followed by trumping dummy's last club. This eliminated safe exit cards in clubs from the East hand. Declarer now led the K of spades and East erred by winning the A immediately (a holdup would have still permitted East to win 2 trump tricks but would have resulted in one fewer end plays). After winning the trump ace, East was end played. See the position below:

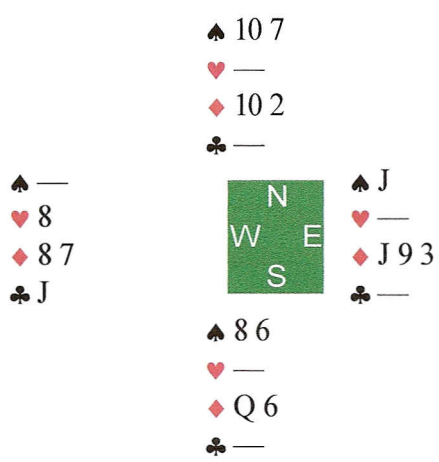
♠ Q 10 7  
♥ J 9  
♦ K 10 2  
♣ —

♠ —  
♥ 8 5 4  
♦ 8 7 5  
♣ J 10

♠ J 9  
♥ K 10  
♦ A J 9 3  
♣ —

♠ 8 6 5  
♥ A 2  
♦ Q 6 4  
♣ —

He could not return any suit without presenting declarer with a trick. He ultimately led a heart which declarer rode around to his Jack. Declarer now cashed the Q of spades, led a heart to the A, and followed this with a diamond to the king. This second end play put East on lead again. See below:



East cashed his J of spades, but then had to lead a diamond surrendering a trick to the 10 of diamonds. With all of his assets, East was able to win only 2 spade tricks and one diamond trick.