

North

S—K74
 H—AK96
 D—1032
 C—AJ8
South
 S—Q8
 H—5
 D—QJ864
 C—76432

East

S—J1053
 H—874
 D—K75
 C—Q109

West

S—A962
 H—QJ1032
 D—A9
 C—K5

Neither vulnerable, IMPs

| East | South | West | North |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | Pass | 2H* | Pass |
| 2S | 2NT | Dbl. | Pass |
| Pass | 3D | Pass | 3NT |
| Dbl. | Pass | Pass | Pass |

*Flannery (4 spades, 5 hearts)

Trick 1: S2, 4, 10, **Q**.

Trick 2: D4, 9, 10, **K**.

Trick 3: S3, 8, **A**, 7.

Trick 4: S6, **K**, 5, C2.

Trick 5: D3, 5, J, **A**.

Declarer had the diamonds established and so, went down only one. Who gets the charge?

MARSHALL MILES: "East 30%, West 70%. It is easier for West to tell what East has than for East to tell what West has. For example, from East's point of view, West could have had two small clubs rather than Kx, or Qx, instead of Ax in diamonds. Since West can hardly play his partner for less than he has for the double (and East might have held J10xxx of spades with two hearts), West should play the ace of diamonds immediately and return another spade to make the defense easy."

"East probably should have ducked the first diamond trick. (If South has his actual hand, plus the king of clubs, there is no defense.) But his play could have been right if West held Qx of diamonds since declarer might misguess."

STEVE EVANS: "Although West made the incorrect (on this hand) lead, the main defensive error occurred at trick 2. Obviously, if East ducks the diamond at trick 2, or if West wins and East ducks the next diamond, the contract will be set 3. West had the first chance; if he goes up at trick 2, it will be extremely easy for East to duck the next diamond. Because of East's double, he must have the club queen and diamond honor(s). It seems logical, given declarer's play, that he has the QJ of diamonds, although it's not guaranteed. So, although West might go up with the ace, it doesn't seem like the right play. East, however, knew every card in the hand. Because of West's double of 2NT, he must have every outstanding high card except for the diamond QJ. That would leave him 14 HCP, probably the minimum for his double. So East had a 100% line of defense and blew it."

The hair-trigger doubles by both defenders

The hair-trigger doubles by both defenders should have made their task easy. If West leads a normal heart (that's why they give you sequences), it is hard to see how declarer can take more than five tricks. Even after the poor start, East had to go to sleep to allow declarer to escape with down one. The bidding told him both the high cards and the distribution of the deal, and so at trick two, he knew declarer was entitled to one diamond trick. Did he hope by winning the trick to deny declarer any tricks in the suit? Or was he worried that declarer, holding AQJxx of diamonds would now bring in the entire suit? Clearly, neither of these "thoughts" makes any sense. West could have made a good play by rising on the diamond, as a careful analysis marks his partner with the king; but why should he have needed to do so? It cannot cost to duck unless partner blunders. If West was bold enough to double 2NT with his 14 points (how does he know East has any values?), East should have awakened enough to defend properly.