

**North**

S-1087

H-AK92

D-AQ8

C-QJ2

**West**

S-A65

H-QJ1085

D-94

C-AK8

**East**

S-QJ

H-764

D-732

C-107653

**South**

S-K9432

H-3

D-KJ1065

C-94

Both vulnerable. IMP scoring:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1H	1NT	Pass
3S	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Trick 1: C A, 2, 3, 9

Trick 2: D 9, A, 2, 6

Trick 3: H A, 4, 3, 5

Trick 4: H K, 6, C 4, H 8

Trick 5: S 10, J, K, A

Trick 6: D 4, Q, 3, J

Trick 7: S 8, Q, 2, 5

Trick 8: C 5, S 3, C 8, C 2

Declarer now picked up the last trump and claimed. Who gets the charge?

**Marshall Miles:** "East was 75% at fault, West 25%. I am assuming that the defenders conventionally lead ace from ace-king.

Since East cannot support any shift and wants West to cash his other club, East should have played the six or seven at trick one. The first signal should normally be an attitude rather than a count message, and this is a good illustration of why. With a singleton heart or king of diamonds, East should play low to ask for a shift, allowing his partner to figure which shift would be most likely to work. It doesn't pay to try to show attitude and suit preference in one signal since there is too much room for confusion, especially when declarer false-cards.

West should have shifted to a heart at trick two. This would be the only way to set the hand if East had 2-1-5-5 distribution and no useful high cards. It is hard to see how a diamond shift can gain, if East has the king, he will get it eventually. (East's holding 2-2-3-6 with Kx or QJ of spades is too remote to play for.) Although West's diamond shift was illogical, it was not costly in comparison to the logical alternative—a heart shift—and in fact, it should have worked out better.

At trick eight, East had a guilty conscience because he hadn't encouraged a club continuation. So he made a futile play, accepting his just punishment. A diamond lead was his only chance for another trick."

**Steve Evans:** "East gets the major share of the blame on this hand mainly because his mistake was made when he had plenty of information to correctly solve the problem. Apparently, he was playing his partner for stiff ace of clubs (one reason I don't like playing Ace from AK is the ambiguity involved when partner might have led an ace without the king). He was wrong on a couple of counts, however. First, why did declarer pitch a club on the heart immediately? And second, why did partner lead 9 then 4 of diamonds from 10954, which would be his diamond holding if he had one club? I think East was just taken in by declarer's false-card of the diamond jack and didn't think of partner having a doubleton diamond. West also made a mistake at trick 2. He has three tricks and needs partner to have a fourth. Obviously, he played for partner having the diamond king. However, he should cash his high club first since the only time that will set up a pitch for a critical diamond loser is when declarer is 7 -2 -2-2. If he had that hand, he would undoubtedly have bid 4S over 1NT, rather than 3S."

The panel has done a good job analyzing the so-called defense put up on this deal by Canada's most renowned pair of internationalists, but I think they were not sufficiently hard on East. First, he failed to encourage the club shift when he knew no shift was likely to be helpful. Then, after his obedient partner miraculously shifted to a winning suit, he screwed that up too, by not paying attention to the diamond spots. West was not only blameless, but heroic, since he did not make the "percentage" heart switch, but rather, played partner for either the diamond king or a remote trump trick, and he was right.