

# CHARGE ACCOUNT . . . By David Weiss

	<b>North</b>		Neither vulnerable, IMPs:			
	S—K8					
	H—Q73		<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
<b>West</b>	D—K10632	<b>East</b>	1D	Pass	1NT	Pass
S—J10953	C—QJ6	S—Q76	Pass	Pass		
H—K52		H—AJ108				
D—Q85	<b>South</b>	D—J94				
C—A4	S—A42	C—K72				
	H—964					
	D—A7					
	C—109853					

- Trick 1: SJ, K, 7, 2.
- Trick 2: CQ, 2, 3, A.
- Trick 3: S9, 8, Q, A.
- Trick 4: C5, 4, J, 7.
- Trick 5: C6, K, 8, H5.
- Trick 6: S6, 4, 5, D2.
- Trick 7: D4, A, 5, 3.

And so declarer claimed the contract, despite the defense's nine established winners. Who gets the charge?

**Steve Evans:** "East gets 95% of the charge, with West getting 5% for making subtle plays with a partner who obviously pays no attention. At trick 6, West left his partner on lead (he must have 5 spades on the bidding) for some reason. It doesn't take a genius to see that the only reason West would want his partner on lead was because he had the heart king. As an added clue, West played the higher of his two remaining low spades. So East should return a heart, pitch his diamonds when West wins his two spades, and take three more tricks when partner returns a heart."

**Marshall Miles:** "East was completely at fault. It was obvious that West left East on lead for a purpose, and it could only be to lead a heart. There could be no advantage in East's leading a diamond (as compared to West's leading a diamond). If the South hand were A42, A10, J94, 109853 instead of the actual hand, a heart lead at trick seven would be necessary to defeat the contract. Either East was asleep or he didn't trust his partner."

West knew from the auction that his partner had a red ace, but he didn't know which one. His ducking of the spade six, leaving East on lead, guaranteed seven tricks for the defense, regardless of who held the red jacks, so long as a heart was played. This analysis was accurate and should have led to a maximum result.

Since there was a possibility that East would do the wrong thing, as he actually did, perhaps West should have won the spade and cashed two more rounds. The cards pitched by East and South on the run of the cards would tell West which red suit to play next.

On the actual deal, this straight forward defense by West would succeed. East would discard two low diamonds and West could play the king followed by another heart. The trouble is, though, that if South has the heart ace rather than the diamond ace, a heart must be put through from East's side. If it is not, then West will have to play a diamond after he cashes the spade; if declarer has the diamond jack and guesses correctly, the contract will roll home. So to cover both primary possibilities, West had to leave his partner on lead; and East had to determine the reason. East gets the charge.