

Plan Your CNTC Defence

The Canadian Bridge Championships were held in Penticton this past June. A great contingent from Winnipeg came out to compete, with a chance to represent Canada at the World Championships being held this August in Poland. Alas, the Winnipeg team of Bob Todd, Doug Fisher, Ray Hornby and myself could only achieve two bronze medals, one in the Open and one in the Seniors.

However, I have very happy to report (not really news, I know!) That **Marielle Decelles-Brentnall** will playing on the Canadian Women's team! A good strong team, with hope for a high finish!

Over the next several months I will be including deals from the CBF Championships. Here is the first, hopefully an easy one.

You are West, holding, ♠AK53 ♥Q7 ♦KQ52 ♣1042, and hear this auction.

West	North	East	South
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1NT ¹	Dbl	2♦ ²	Pass
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2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
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Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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1. 12-14.
2. Five plus hearts, weak.

Partner leads the ♦10. Dummy has:

Partner

Dummy

♠QJ10

♥K9654

♦J3

♣983

You

♠AK53

♥Q7

♦KQ52

♣1042

Declarer plays the three from dummy. Plan your defence. You are playing upside down count and attitude?

Solution

Actually this is much easier when posed as a problem. Declarer is marked with a stiff ace of hearts, from the bidding. You are pretty certain that East has some diamond length, as they have most one spade. The priority is to shift to trumps, forcing declarer to use their trump entry prematurely. Don't encourage with the ♦2! Declarer will just duck, and now the game is cold when partner continues diamonds, which is what happened at the other table.

The correct play is the ♦Q, and then play three rounds of trumps if declarer ducks. The full deal:

North

♠98742

♥A

♦AKQ5

♣J65

West

♠AK53

♥Q7

♦KQ52

♣1042

East

♠6

♥J10832

♦10984

♣J76

South

♠QJ10

♥K9654

♦J3

♣983

Takeaways

1. Be ready! If you didn't start thinking as West until trick two, it would be too late.
2. Notice declarer had a choice – either play West for a mistake, or hope for a 3-3 club break. Whatever they decide, they should do it quick! The longer they think before playing from dummy, the better the chance that West will start thinking.