

BEST-DEFENDED HAND

GOLD CUP WINNERS TEAM v LONDON TEAM

NS vul, dealer E

♠ Q 7 6 4 3
 ♥ 10 8 2
 ♦ 10 8 7
 ♣ A 9

♠ 8 2
 ♥ J 5 4 3
 ♦ A 4 3
 ♣ K J 7 2

N
 W E
 S

♠ K J 10 5
 ♥ K
 ♦ Q 9 6 5 2
 ♣ 10 6 4

♠ A 9
 ♥ A Q 9 7 6
 ♦ K J
 ♣ Q 8 5 3

Table 1	S	W	N	E
	1♥	No	1♠	No
	1N	end		

Table 1: C Duckworth (N), D Price;
C Dixon (E), V Silverstone

NS + 90

Table 2	1♥	No	1♠	No
	2♣	No	2♥	end

NS - 100

Table 2: I Rose (N), B Shenkin;

*J Reardon (E), *R Butland - *prize winners

In room 1, S made his contract in some comfort when W led ♣2 to the ♣Q, and he chose to cash ♥A at trick 2 [quite well played in itself].

At table 2, the contract was 2♥, and W made the **first good move when he led a trump**, denying S the chance to ruff two clubs on table. At trick 2 declarer led a ♦, trying to set up a fast discard. Had he chosen to lead the knave there would have been no story, for E could not safely play ♥5. But in fact he chose ♦K [in principle superior to ♦] as more likely to be ducked] and W won and **switched to ♠8**, covered by ♠Q, ♠K and ♠A. Declarer played a second ♦, won by E, who **cached ♠j and led the ♠5**. S ruffed this with ♥6, **at which point, if West overruffs, declarer can establish dummy's last ♠, so he discarded his ♠4**. Now declarer played ♥9 to West's ♥J. The position was:

♠ 7 6
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A 9

♠ -
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ -
 ♣ K J 7 2

N
 W E
 S

♠ 10
 ♥ -
 ♦ 9 6 5
 ♣ 10 6

♠ -
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ -

♣ Q 8 5 3

And West's exit with ♥5 left declarer without recourse.