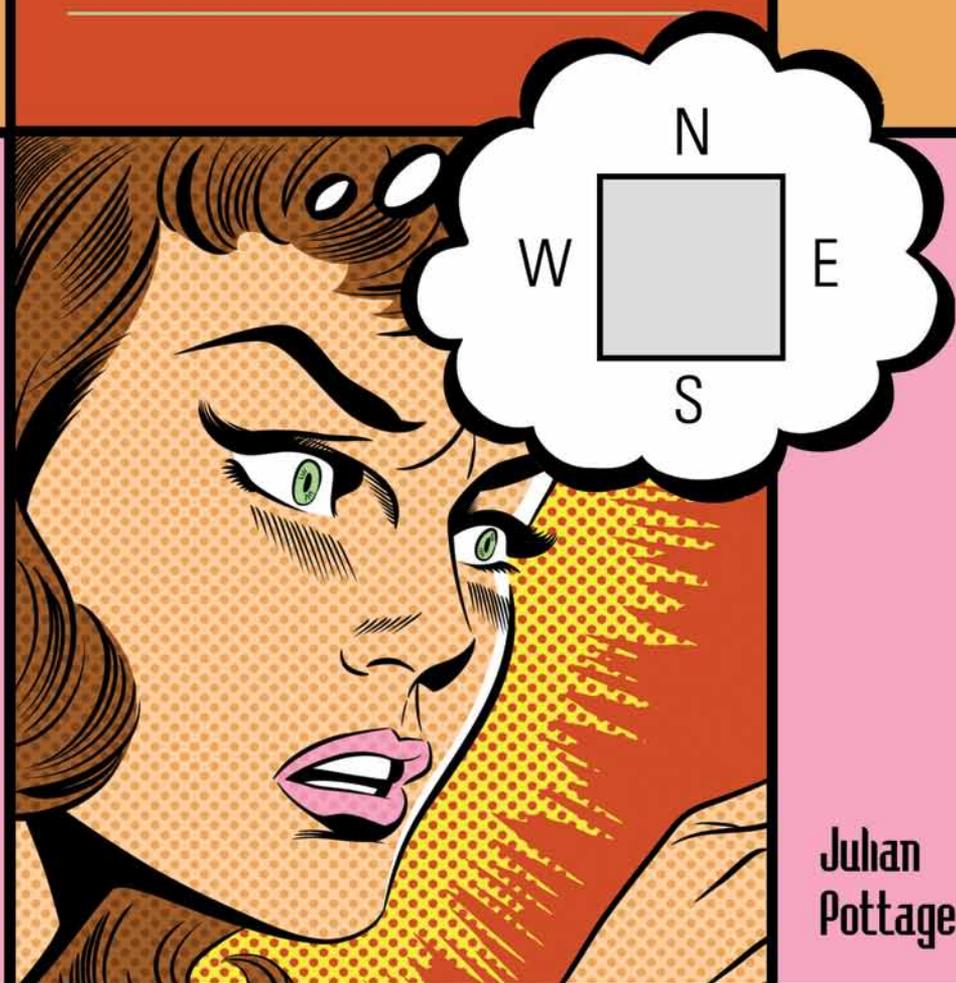


# DEFEND OR DECLARE?

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72 Deals to Test  
Your Bridge Skill

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Julian  
Pottage

# DEFEND OR DECLARE?

## 12 Deals to Test Your Bridge Skill

Julian Pottage



Master Point Press

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## FOREWORD

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When Julian invited me to review the draft of his new book I was at first a little apprehensive of the deadline he set me. In any event I soon found his deals to be so absorbing that the urge to return to them at every spare moment was irresistible. In spite of my lifelong interest in the technical aspects of card play at bridge, I found many situations that seemed unfamiliar to me. What's more, although I tend to treat these puzzles as double dummy problems, Julian always manages to find a setting in which it is reasonable for the winning side, given time, to work out the most likely lie of the cards and, given a little more time, the winning line against that lie.

The format, originally devised by Andrew Diosy, works very well. Sometimes I was able to solve without looking at the *Answer Part 1* overleaf, perhaps with a little help from the title — that of Deal 1 is a nice giveaway, for example! When I couldn't immediately see the point I turned the page and would usually be told how somebody went wrong when the hand arose at the table and to take it from there. In most cases I was able to find a better line but then I had to agonize: was this the solution Julian had in mind, or was there some devilish counter available to the other side? If so, was there still something to be done about that? Quite often I was able to give myself a pat on the back. When instead the *Answer Part 2* showed me what I had missed, I kicked myself of course but was nevertheless delighted.

Whether you do better or worse than I did, I'm sure you'll be delighted too. I very much hope and expect that Julian's chosen charity, Médecins Sans Frontières, will benefit accordingly.

Hugh Darwen

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# INTRODUCTION

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When I wrote the introduction to *Play or Defend*, I indicated that there would be a sequel. Here it is! To me it seems scary that nine years have elapsed since then. So much seems to have happened. I have moved from England to Wales, I now have a daughter as well as a wife and three sons... and I have two dogs too.

*Defend or Declare* is the twenty-fifth book I have written, though possibly not the twenty-fifth to appear in print — but that is another story. To mark this silver jubilee I am giving all my royalties from the book to a charitable body, Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF for short. MSF provide medical and humanitarian aid in the most inhospitable parts of the world — places of poverty, war or the like — where the local authorities are unable to cope. I chose them partly because they have no political or religious affiliation and partly because everyone can relate to the need for medical care.

The format of *Defend or Declare* closely follows its predecessor. You see the full deal, complete with bidding and opening lead. You then get two chances to study the possible exchanges during the play. If you want to test yourself, you can decide which side to back on each deal. Over the course of the 72 deals, the defenders and the declarers prevail in almost equal numbers.

Please remember that although you can see all four hands, the players cannot. Imagine you are watching on BBO or VuGraph — or you are reading a magazine article — not such a hard step to take. The dealer and vulnerability adhere to the usual regulations at duplicate. For example, North deals with neither side vulnerable on 1, 17, 33 etc. I have arranged the deals into six groups of twelve. Within each group of twelve, the play generally gets harder towards the end of the group.

You should find the bidding straightforward. I have tried to explain anything that may be unfamiliar to a significant number of readers. On the vast majority of deals, each side aims to make or break the contract — you need not worry about overtricks or extra undertricks. On a few deals, the contract is clearly a sacrifice. In this case, each side's objective is to make enough tricks to score better than they would have done had the other side bought the contract.

Before I thank the army of people involved in making the manuscript ready for publication, I would like to mention the most important person

of all — you, the reader. If nobody read my books, nobody would publish them and I would give up writing them.

Those who have helped in checking the proof this time are Peter Burrows, Hugh Darwen and Maureen Dennison. Two pieces of software, Bill Bailey's 'Deep Finesse' and Ed Marzo's 'Dealmaster Pro' were also very useful.

Julian Pottage, Porthcawl, Wales

June 2012

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# Chapter 1

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# Before Sunrise



## Chapter I • Contents

- Deal 1 Super Spade Spots
- Deal 2 Conveying a Message
- Deal 3 Eastern Exclusion
- Deal 4 Not a Moment Too Soon
- Deal 5 A Ruff Time of It
- Deal 6 Perfection by Bob
- Deal 7 Sensing the Sinister
- Deal 8 Subtle Shield
- Deal 9 Deafening Silence
- Deal 10 Internal Matters
- Deal 11 Where is the Tenace?
- Deal 12 High Society

# DEAL 1 SUPER SPADE SPOTS

## To Answer Part 1

♠ K 10 9 5  
 ♥ 8 6 5 2  
 ♦ 8 5  
 ♣ KJ 6

W	N	E	S
	pass	3♦	3NT
all pass			

## To Answer Part 2

♠ AJ 6  
 ♥ KJ 3  
 ♦ 10 2  
 ♣ 10 9 8 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ Q 7 4 3 2  
 ♥ A Q 7  
 ♦ A K  
 ♣ Q 7 5

**Contract:** 3NT  
**Opening Lead:** ♦8

# DEAL 2 CONVEYING A MESSAGE

## To Answer Part 1

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

W	N	E	S
		pass	1♦
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	2♠	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

## To Answer Part 2

♠ Q 8 6 2  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ A 5  
 ♣ K Q J 10 9 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AJ 7 3  
 ♥ J 8 5 3  
 ♦ J 8  
 ♣ 7 5 2

♠ 9 5  
 ♥ AK 10 2  
 ♦ K 10 7 6 3 2  
 ♣ 6

**Contract:** 3NT  
**Opening Lead:** ♥4

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## DEAL 1 SUPER SPADE SPOTS

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### Answer Part I

The original declarer won the diamond perforce, finessed the ♠J and cashed the ace. When East showed out, the play continued with the ♣10 run round to the jack. West won and played another diamond. Soon afterwards, East came in with the ♣A; an avalanche of diamonds defeated the contract.

It was a little unlucky to find spades 4-1 and even more unlucky that East had a second-round club entry. Can you see a way to overcome these breaks or is the distribution too hostile for declarer to succeed? [See page 21](#) for the second part of the answer.

[To Question](#)

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## DEAL 2 CONVEYING A MESSAGE

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### Answer Part I

East put up the ♥J, losing to the king. South played on clubs. West did a bit of thinking. The play to the first trick had marked South with the ♥A and ♥K. West thought it likely that South would have the ♦K too, having bid the suit twice. Ace-king in two red suits plus five club winners in dummy would give a total of nine. Therefore, West took the club and switched to the ♠K. The ♠10 came next, covered by the queen and ace. Although East could cash the ♠J, this was just the fourth defensive trick.

Is the contract always cold? If not, how can the defenders find the way to defeat it? Remember, they cannot see each other's hands. [See page 21](#) for the second part of the answer.

[To Question](#)

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## How good an analyst are you?

In 2003, Julian Pottage's *Play or Defend?* won the IBPA Book of the Year award. Using an unusual bridge problem format, it gave readers all four hands and challenged them to decide whether they wanted to play or defend. Almost ten years later, this sequel comprises 72 new problems, presented in the same fashion, and asking the same question: defend or declare?

These are not 'double-dummy' problems, however, in the normal sense. They are simply interesting deals of the kind that you might encounter in any club game, although perhaps a little more complex than most. Each solution is presented in two parts, allowing the reader to discover any errors in the first attempt, and then go back and rethink the deal in greater depth.

Are you up to the challenge?



**JULIAN POTTAGE** (Wales) is acknowledged to be one of the top bridge problemists in the world. He is a regular contributor to magazines, and has written a number of books. His most recent work for MPP involved participating in the revision of Clyde Love's classic, *Bridge Squeezes Complete*.



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