

2nd and 3rd Hand Defensive Play

1. 3rd Hand Defensive Play

In the following eight examples below, your hearts and North's hearts are displayed. In each case the contract is 4♠ by NS and partner makes the opening lead. The card played from dummy at trick one is in underlined in blue. Which Heart card do you play?

What do you play on the lead?

a) **North**
(Dummy)
♥763

East (You)
♥AJ5

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥A

Third hand plays high

b) **North**
(Dummy)
♥QJ965

East (You)
♥K8732

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥2

Partner's lead must be a singleton (next lowest card to yours and North), so play low as South must have A10

c) **North**
(Dummy)
♥K93

East (You)
♥AJ5

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥J

Partner's lead must be from the Queen, so the Jack should hold. Retain your ace to beat the king

d) **North**
(Dummy)
♥T63

East (You)
♥QJ9

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥9

You can see the ♥10 in Dummy, so your ♠9 will push out the Ace. Your partner will now know you have the Queen and Jack. Had you played the Queen, you would have denied holding the nine or the Jack.

e) **North**
(Dummy)
♥ Q63

East (You)
♥ K105

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥10

Partner will not have the Ace and probably has the Jack, so your 10 will push out the Ace in South's hand

f) **North**
(Dummy)
♥ T63

East (You)
♥ KQ2

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥Q

Lower of touching honours

g) **North**
(Dummy)
♥ A63

East (You)
♥ K95

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥5

A low card to encourage partner to play hearts again if they get in

h) **North**
Dummy
♥ A63

East (You)
♥ 982

West leads ♥4

Answer: ♥9

Play a high card to discourage hearts

2. 2nd Hand Defensive Play

The contract is 3NT for all these examples and declarer is leading from Dummy and the card is Underlined in blue. Which heart do you play in each example?

g) **North**
(Dummy)
♥ J1073

East (You)
a) ♥K92
b) ♥KQ8
c) ♥A842

- a) ♥2 Don't cover the first of touching honours
- b) ♥Q You will make two tricks if partner has the 9
- c) ♥2 Partner may have the King or Queen

h) **North**
Dummy
♥ J73


East (You)
a) ♥A54
b) ♥Q64
c) ♥Q92

- a) ♥4 Partner may have the King or Queen
- b) ♥Q Cover, hoping to promote the ten in partner's hand
- c) ♥Q Hoping to promote the 9 in your hand

3. 2nd Hand Defensive Play

The contract is 4♥ and in each case, South (Declarer) leads J♥ from their hand. Which heart do you play in each example?

g)

West (You)	North (Dummy)
a) ♥Q64	♥A73
b) ♥Q6	
c) ♥K10	
d) ♥K542	

- a) ♥4 Don't cover, hoping to make the queen – do so smoothly!
- b) ♥6 Don't tell them where the queen is!
- c) ♥K Cover with the King, hoping to make the ten
- d) ♥2 You will definitely make the King if you don't cover.
You have greater length than dummy