Defensive Strategy

On defense, the best approach is usually to go "passive." Don't start suits in which you have honors (unless you have a safe sequence to lead from). Leading away from (or leading) honors is dangerous and often costs a trick. The underlined card is dangerous.

Α		В		С	
	NORTH		NORTH		NORTH
	♦ 975		♥ K64		♦ A86
WEST ♠ KJ <u>3</u>		WEST ▼ <u>A</u> 107		WEST ◆ Q7 <u>3</u>	

D	E	F	
NORTH ♠ Q75 EAST	NORTH ▼ Q75	NORTH → J72 EAST	

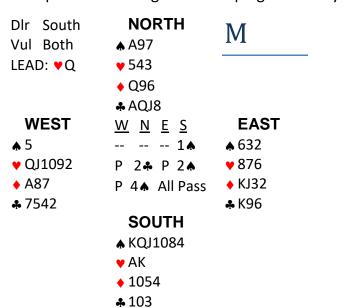
It is safe to lead from small cards or through strength (the underlined card is safe):

G		Н		I	
	NORTH		NORTH		NORTH
	♦ 975		♥ AK7		♦ KQ2
WEST ▲ 108 <u>3</u>		WEST ♥ J8 <u>4</u>		WEST ◆ <u>8</u> 75	

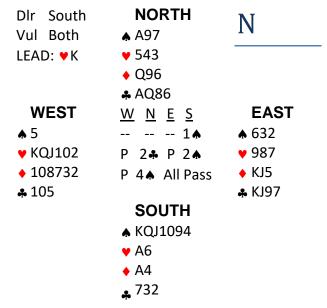
J	K	L	
NORTH ♠ 875 EAST	NORTH ✓ A765 EAST ✓ 1098	NORTH ◆ 54 EAST	

Defensive Strategy (continued)

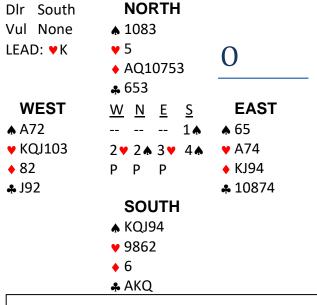
The "default" approach is passive/safe. Go aggressive only when dummy has winners. Switch to a trump if declarer might be trumping in dummy.



Declarer wins the heart lead and when the ♣10 goes to East's ♣K, he sees the need to switch aggressively to diamonds.



Declarer wins the heart lead and when the \$2 goes to dummy's \$Q and East's \$K, East goes passively/safely (hearts).



East should win the A and switch to a trump. West wins and continues with a second trump to set the contract.

