

Les sluffs an ace and revokes on the same trick- and gets a top ! A Les Kind of Play

		W	N	E	S
					1C
D S	N	1H	1S	P	1NT
V B	S K Q J 10 9 X	P	2NT	P	3NT
OL QH	H K X X	P	P	P	
	D Q X X				
	C X				
	W		E		
S X		S X X X X X			
H A Q J X X X		H X			
D X		D A 9 8 X X			
C J X X X X		C K Q			
	S (Les)				
	S A				
	H 10 9 X				
	D K J 10 X				
	C A X X X X				

From the Jaws of Defeat.

Les, contracted for 3NT, but wished he had bid 4S when the QH was led. The Spades seemed hopelessly blocked. The QD looked like the only possible entry once the heart king was removed, and that clearly was West's plan. If West had the AD, he would take it immediately and cash at least 3 more hearts. If East had it, the Queen was dead.

Les devised a creative but slightly flawed plan to unblock the spades. He let the QH hold and covered JH with the KH. When East played a spade, he revoked, sluffing his Ace of Spades, thinking he was following suit. To Sluff an Ace and revoke on the same trick is a Les kind of play. On the 6 spades played from the board, Les pitched 4 clubs, and 2 hearts. East pitched 4 S's and 2 D,s. E/W smiled kindly and rolled their eyes. knowing well they would have a favorable chat with the director.

Les now led the QD. East played the ace and Les played low. East did the best he could by leading the KC. Les took the ace and cashed 3 diamonds making 5 - pending a chat with the director. Director, noting the revoke, granted a two trick compensation. West argued that if South didn't revoke he would have taken only 6 tricks: 1S, 1H, 3D and a C. so the equitable compensation should be seven tricks for the defense.

Les argued that if he didn't revoke, he would have taken the second heart lead and led a Club to the ace in his hand, played the AS and exited with a club. East would have been end played and forced to lead a S or a D putting him back in dummy to run the spades. Les claims he would lose only a H, a C and maybe a D, thus making 4 at least, so the 2 trick penalty was more than full compensation.

The Director ruled 3 NT making 3. Everybody else was in 4 spades - Down 1 or more. It was the first top of the year for our Les Deele. I think it happened August something.