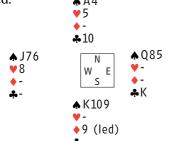
4. Opening INT when you shouldn't

What Happened

Literally speaking, South has 14 points. But he hasn't really. Look at his five diamonds including the powerful • KJ109 combination, surely worth more than four high-card points. Look at his •109, •9 and •9. His hand is worth nearer 16 points than 14. Opening 1NT does scant justice to his hand. As the play demonstrated.

West led ♥2 v the lowly INT to ♥3, ♥J and ♥K. At trick two, declarer led ◆4 to ◆Q. East won ◆A and switched to ♣6. Declarer ducked to West's ♣Q and won West's ♣3 (to East's ♣J) with ♣A.

Declarer was pretty sure West held ♥Q for his ♥2 lead and now led ♥9, covered by ♥Q and ♥A. Declarer cashed ♥10, throwing ♣9, then crossed to ♦KJ109.



West had to keep ♥8, so away went ♠6. Dummy's ♥5 could now be released, having served its purpose. It was then East's turn to be squeezed. Forced to keep ♣K to beat dummy's ♣10, away went ♠5.

At trick II, declarer led $\clubsuit 9$ to $\spadesuit A$, followed by $\spadesuit 4$ to $\spadesuit K$, felling $\spadesuit Q$ and $\spadesuit J$. He scored the last

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither **▲** A43 A 1053 ♦ Q 2 ♣10542 **♠** Q852 **▲** J76 N **♥**J74 ♥Q862 Ε ♦8753 ♦ A 6 S **♣**KJ86 **\$**03 **▲** K109 ♥ K 9 ♦ KJ1094 **♣**A97

What Happened				
S	W	N	Ε	
1NT(1)	Pass	Pass(2)	Pass	

(1) Big underbid.

(2) Correct to pass 1NT with an unmemorable flat 10-count.

Contract: 1NT, Opening Lead: ♥2

What Should Have Happened					
S	W	N	E		
1 ♦ 1NT(1)	Pass Pass	1♥ 3NT(2)	Pass end		

(1) Showing a balanced 15-16(17) — which is what South's hand is worth.(2) The partnership have 25 points.

Contract: 3NT, Opening Lead: ♠ 6/♥2

trick with \$10 and that was an incredible 11 tricks — via a double squeeze. Sadly, he was in only 1NT.

What Should Have Happened South upgrades and the 3NT contract is easily reached. West may choose a spade lead rather than a heart because North bid 1 → but that will give declarer a third spade trick. Either way, he'll make ten or 11 tricks without heavy breathing.

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