

# 18- 2024 – To Cover or Not to Cover

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Shakespeare once wrote 'To cover or not to cover, that is the question that occupies the hearts and minds of bridge players'

**Dealer W, Both Vul**

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	9862	
	1098	
	K743	
	104	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
A3		KQ4
7642		J5
Q9		A10652
AK753		J86
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	J1075	
	AKQ3	
	J8	
	Q92	

The bidding went:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1C	P	1D	X
2C	P	3C	P
P	P		

## THE PLAY

North led S9

Declarer played SK, then played CJ from the Table. South faced a Shakespearean moment – to cover or not with CQ. The answer is South must cover it. If not covered, CJ holds, then, CA and CK mop up the rest of the Trumps, EW making 5 Club tricks. In covering, South hopes Partner has C10 and then NS make 1 Club trick

Later, Declarer led DQ from Hand, and then North faced a Shakespearean moment – to cover or not with DK. The answer is North must cover with DK, otherwise DQ makes and DA later for no Diamond losers. If covered, DJ in South is promoted as a later winner

## MORAL OF THE STORY

The general rule is you should cover an Honour with an Honour. Here, if neither is covered, EW make 2 extra Tricks for a much better score

Of course, there are exceptions to that rule, especially if Declarer needs access to Dummy to run a long suit and is short of side entries, say in NT – then you should not cover

**Ian Morison**

3 May 2024