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KRZYSZTOF  
MARTENS

# GUIDE DOG

PART I

GARSŲ PASAULIS

Vilnius 2010

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# Part 1:

## *PUTTING ON THE RIGHT TRACK*

Putting partner on the right track requires enormous effort. The analysis we routinely undertake must take into account partner's problems, too. This is extremely difficult. We have to double our efforts bearing in mind that clues on which we base our conclusions may not be available from the opposite side of the bridge table. What is obvious to me may not necessarily be self-evident to partner. Any help will be truly appreciated and, no less importantly, will reduce considerably the amount of defensive errors committed by our partnership.

## EXAMPLES

I.

The basic skill of a guide dog is showing the way.

You are sitting North.

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	2 ♦	4 ♠	Pass...

Lead: ♥7

	♠ A J ♥ 7 6 ♦ A J 10 9 8 7 ♣ J 10 3					
♠ K Q 9 6 3 ♥ 9 8 4 2 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ K	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ 10 8 7 4 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A Q 7 5	♠ 5 ♥ K Q J 10 3 ♦ 6 2 ♣ 9 8 6 4 2
N						
W      E						
S						

Partner drops the King under dummy's Ace.

After getting in with the ♠A, we should cash the ♦A and only then play another heart. This way, we deprive partner of the natural but unsuccessful option – of playing a diamond through when in with the Heart Queen.

It leaves him with just one sensible choice: the trump promotion.

**Part 1: Putting on the Right Track**

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II.

The guide dog makes life easier.

You are sitting South.

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass...

		♠ 7 5 3									
		♥ A 10 8 5 2									
		♦ 6 2									
		♣ Q 5 4									
♠ K Q	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K 4 3		♥ 9 7 6									
♦ A 4		♦ J 10 7 5 3									
♣ K J 10 9 8 6		♣ A 7 3									
		♠ J 10 9 6 4 2									
		♥ Q J									
		♦ K Q 9 8									
		♣ 2									

Lead: ♥5 (4th best). You inserted the Jack and declarer won his King. He then played the Ace and another club. What do you discard?

The rule of 11 tells you declarer had only one card higher than the ♥5. Make an effort to count to eleven.

Throw the Queen of hearts.





## Part 1: Putting on the Right Track

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### IV.

Another important skill of a guide dog is locating, and safely leading his partner up and down, the stairs.

Pairs tournament. You are sitting North.

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass...

2NT = Extra Values

	♠ 6 5 3 2					
	♥ A 6 3					
	♦ J 6 4					
	♣ 10 5 2					
♠ Q J 10 8 7 ♥ K Q ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ A J 6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ K 9 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ K Q 9 8 7 3	
N						
W      E						
S						
	♠ A 4					
	♥ 10 8 7 5 4					
	♦ K 10 9 5 3					
	♣ 4					

Lead: ♦4.

Partner wins the King and returns the ♦10.

You should play the ♦J. True, following with the ♠6 to partner's Ace at the next trick (the ♠K was led) might suggest the heart switch, but the failure to sacrifice the Jack of diamonds would surely indicate the possession of the Queen.

All we want is one more trick. The key is to show partner the right suit.

## Examples

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V.

It's in the nature of every working dog, including the guide dog, to protect their master from taking a false step.

Pairs tournament. You are sitting North.

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
3♥	Pass...		

	♠ A 10 8 3 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ Q 10 9				
♠ 5 ♥ Q J 10 8 7 4 2 ♦ Q 4 ♣ A 5 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ K J 9 6 4 ♥ 9 6 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ K J 7
N					
W      E					
S					
	♠ Q 7 ♥ A K ♦ A 10 7 5 3 ♣ 8 6 3 2				

Lead: ♣10.

West tried the Jack and South signaled an even number of clubs. When a trump is led from dummy, partner puts up the King and switches to the ♦5, West following with the ♦4.

You win the King and...

The thoughtless diamond continuation will make partner return the suit once again and the spade trick will be gone.

Cashing the spade Ace, however, may prove disastrous if declarer holds something like:

♠ —  
 ♥ Q J 10 8 7 4 2  
 ♦ 10 4 3  
 ♣ A 5 4

The safe and correct play is to switch passively to clubs (better still, to the ♣Q, to prevent partner from thinking that we are looking for a club ruff).

Part 1: Putting on the Right Track

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VI.

If two paths are possible, blocking one of them directs partner onto the right one.

You are sitting North.

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass...

	♠ K J 9					
	♥ K 6 3					
	♦ 6 3					
	♣ A 10 7 5 2					
♠ Q 7 6 3 ♥ A 10 8 5 ♦ A J ♣ K Q 6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ 10 8 2 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ K Q 10 9 2 ♣ J 4	
N						
W      E						
S						
	♠ A 5 4					
	♥ 9 4 2					
	♦ 8 7 5 4					
	♣ 9 8 3					

Lead: ♣5. Dummy's Jack wins the trick as South follows with the ♣9. Declarer finesses in hearts (♥9 from partner). We take the King and... cash the ♣A! Only now do we switch to the ♠9. Since we've made a club return pointless, partner will have no option but to continue spades.

## Examples

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VII.

It requires some effort to show partner the right way if a sensible alternative exists.

Pairs tournament. You are sitting North.

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass...

	♠ Q 8 5 2										
	♥ K 6 3										
	♦ 6										
	♣ A Q 7 5 2										
♠ K J 3	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td><b>N</b></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><b>W</b></td><td></td><td><b>E</b></td></tr><tr><td></td><td><b>S</b></td><td></td></tr></table>		<b>N</b>		<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>		<b>S</b>		♠ 10 9 6
	<b>N</b>										
<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>									
	<b>S</b>										
♥ A Q J 5		♥ 10 9 2									
♦ 10 8 7		♦ A K Q J 2									
♣ K J 6		♣ 10 9									
	♠ A 7 4										
	♥ 8 7 4										
	♦ 9 5 4 3										
	♣ 8 4 3										

Lead: ♣5. Dummy's nine holds (South follows with the ♣8) and declarer continues with the ♥10. South should now signal suit preference. By playing the ♥8, he directs his partner's attention to the spade suit

After winning the King we should play carefully play – the eight of spades!!!

Partner will take the Ace and duly return a club through.

If, on the other hand, North desired the spade continuation rather than the club switch – holding ♠KJxx – he would shifted to his smallest spade.



## Examples

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IX.

Even if partner's action looks doubtful to us, we should trust he knows what he is doing.

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	Pass...		

2NT = forcing with support.

N W      E S	♠ 4 3 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ A K Q 10 6
	♠ J 10 9 8 7 ♥ 9 8 ♦ K 8 4 2 ♣ 9 5

Lead: ♠2. West took our ♠7 with the Ace, crossed to dummy in clubs (North followed with the ♣2) and led the ♠Q. Partner won the King and switched to the Ace and Queen of diamonds. What should you do?

a) You overtook with the King ...

		♠ Q 6 5 2 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ 8 7 2
♠ A K ♥ A 10 6 5 4 ♦ J 9 6 ♣ J 4 3	N W      E S	♠ 4 3 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ A K Q 10 6
		♠ J 10 9 8 7 ♥ 9 8 ♦ K 8 4 2 ♣ 9 5

... and everybody looked surprised.

b) You let the Queen win and... partner made an angry face.

**Part 1: Putting on the Right Track**

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	♠ Q 6 5 2										
	♥ K 7 2										
	♦ A Q										
	♣ 8 7 4 2										
♠ A K	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; text-align: center; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 4 3
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A 10 6 5 4	♥ Q J 3										
♦ J 9 6 3	♦ 10 7 5										
♣ J 3	♣ A K Q 10 6										
	♠ J 10 9 8 7										
	♥ 9 8										
	♦ K 8 4 2										
	♣ 9 5										

In the a) layout your partner missed an expert play. With ♦AQx he should have cashed the Queen first, and only then led the Ace and another diamond.

In b) the fault is all yours. The play of an Ace followed by the Queen suggests the lack of a third diamond. Consequently, you should have overtaken.

## Examples

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X.

Partner should not make us guess.

W	N	E	S
			1♦
2♣	4♥	5♣	Dbl
Pass...			

♠ J 10 3										
♥ A J 10 6 5 3 2										
♦ J 10 2										
♣ —										
<table style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W		E		S		♠ K 7 6 5 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 4 ♣ 9 6 5 4 3
N										
W		E								
	S									

Lead: ♦J. South won the King and switched to the ♥K.

What should you do?

a) You gave count and were surprised when partner failed to continue the suit.

♠ J 10 3											
♥ A J 10 6 5 3 2											
♦ J 10 2											
♣ —											
♠ A Q	<table style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W		E		S		♠ K 7 6 5 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 4 ♣ 9 6 5 4 3
N											
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q 7 4											
♦ Q 9 6											
♣ A Q 10 7 2											
♠ 9 8 4											
♥ K											
♦ A K 8 7 5 3											
♣ K J 8											



**Part 1: Putting on the Right Track**

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b) You overtook with the Ace and soon declarer was claiming 11 tricks.

	♠ J 10 3	
	♥ A J 10 6 5 3 2	
	♦ J 10 2	
	♣ —	
♠ A Q	N	♠ K 7 6 5 2
♥ Q 7	W      E	♥ 9 8
♦ Q 9 6 3	S	♦ 4
♣ A Q 10 7 2		♣ 9 6 5 4 3
	♠ 9 8 4	
	♥ K 4	
	♦ A K 8 7 5	
	♣ K J 8	

In a) North made the mistake of ducking partner's King.

In b) South was to blame for playing the King, instead of a small heart at Trick 2. It's hard to imagine North switching to another suit after winning the ♥A.