

## Make Every Effort to Win Trick 2 to Preserve Our Partner's Entry

**Board 1** ♠ 6 5 3 2

North Deals ♥ J 3

None Vul ♦ Q J 10 9

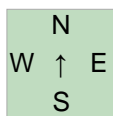
♣ A K Q

♠ 8 7

♥ 10 9 6 5 4

♦ K 5 4

♣ 9 6 5



♠ Q J 10 9 4

♥ Q 7 2

♦ A 8

♣ 4 3 2

♠ A K

♥ A K 8

♦ 7 6 3 2

♣ J 10 8 7

13  
3 9  
15

West North East South

1 NT Pass 3 NT

All pass

The spotlight is on WEST for board 1.

Virtually the same idea as the previous board.

East has made an attacking lead with the Queen of Spades and when West sees the dummy and goes through the various strategies that could be relevant in this situation, the only one that looks relevant is the one where we have to make every effort to win a trick as soon as possible, to help our partner set their suit up, whilst they still have an entry to their hand.

Our objective is to win a trick before our partner does, so that we preserve our partner's entry.

So when declarer calls for a small Diamond from the table, we do exactly that and play our King of Diamonds.

You are probably thinking that it is very easy to make that play, when we can see all four hands, but what happens when declarer has the Ace, Queen of Diamonds, we have just given declarer a 'Free' Diamond finesse?

It is not a 'Free' Diamond finesse, it is just a finesse, a finesse that the declarer was going to take anyway, so it can never cost.

Let us look at some other suit combinations and we will see that the play of the King of Diamonds can also be successful even when our partner does not hold the Ace of Diamonds.

## Ace or King Lead?

Board 2 ♠ 3

East Deals ♥ Q 10 9 8 6 3

N-S Vul ♦ 5 4 3 2

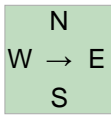
♣ 7 6

♠ K 10 8 6

♥ 7 5

♦ K Q J 10 9

♣ 5 2



♠ A Q J 9 7 4

♥ J 4

♦ 7 6

♣ A Q 10

♠ 5 2

♥ A K 2

♦ A 8

♣ K J 9 8 4 3

2  
9 14  
15

West North East South

1 ♠ 2 ♣

4 ♠ All pass

The spotlight is on SOUTH for board 2.

South must decide whether to lead the Ace or King of Hearts.

There really appears to be no hope of giving our partner a ruff in Hearts, so there is no point in leading the King of Hearts asking them to give us a length signal.

Our best chance is to find our partner with the Queen of Hearts, so we can get them in, to lead a Club through declarer.

So the Ace of Hearts is the lead and when our partner plays the 3 of Hearts, that can only mean one thing and that is that they hold the Queen of Hearts. (Our partner will only play their lowest Heart, when they are in possession of the Queen of

Hearts).

So our play at trick 2 is the 2 of Hearts, so our partner can lead their 7 of Clubs through declarer, so the defence ends up making 4 tricks and defeating East's game contract.

Note that if our partner had denied the possession of the Queen of Hearts by playing their highest Heart, we would have no choice but to play a small Club and hope that our partner held the Queen of Clubs.

When dummy appears with all those Diamonds, we know that this is not a hand to be passive.

## Desperate Times Require Desperate Measures

**Board 3** ♠ Q J 10 5 4

South Deals ♥ K Q

E-W Vul ♦ 7 6 5

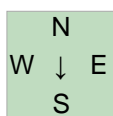
♣ K Q J

♠ 8

♥ J 5 4 3

♦ A K Q J

♣ 7 4 3 2



♠ K 9 2

♥ 8 7 6 2

♦ 10 9 8

♣ 8 6 5

♠ A 7 6 3

♥ A 10 9

♦ 4 3 2

♣ A 10 9

14

11 3

12

West North East South

1 NT

Pass 2 ♥

Pass 2 ♠

Pass 3 NT

Pass 4 ♠

All pass

The Spotlight is on WEST for board 3.

West wins the first three tricks with their three top Diamonds.

Like all conscientious defenders as soon as dummy goes down, West adds the number of points in dummy to the number of points that they originally started with.

That is  $14 + 11 = 25$ .

So the two unseen hands total 15 points of which South has at least 12 of those points.

So things are looking 'Bleak' as East cannot hold any of the Aces.

Where is our all important fourth trick coming from?

It can only come from one suit, which is the Spade suit.

Look what happens when in 'Desperation' we lead our fourth Diamond.

We have been told from childbirth to never give declarer a 'Ruff & Discard' as this will always end in tears for the defence, however, desperate times, require desperate measures.

If declarer ruffs with the 10 of Spades in dummy, providing East has read up on the previous theme, which is not to overruff with a strong trump holding, declarer must now lose a Spade to East's 9 of Spades.

If dummy ruffs small, then East ruffs with their 9, driving out the Ace and promoting their King.

## Controlling the Trump Suit Gives Extra Chances

Board 4 ♠ 5

West Deals ♥ 9 7 4 2

Both Vul ♦ Q J 10 3 2

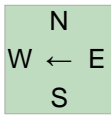
♣ K 9 2

♠ K Q J 10 2

♥ A Q 10 5 3

♦ 9 7

♣ A



♠ 9 8 3

♥ K J 8

♦ 6 5

♣ Q J 10 8 4

♠ A 7 6 4

♥ 6

♦ A K 8 4

♣ 7 6 5 3

6  
16 7  
11

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ All pass

The spotlight is on SOUTH for board 4.

North leads the Queen of Diamonds and South is holding the Ace of Trumps.

When we hold the Ace of trumps or a control in the trump suit, we should think extra hard as there will be more than the usual number of strategies available for the defence.

When dummy goes down, there is only one number that should be in South's head and that is the number FOUR.

The defence requires FOUR tricks to defeat the contract and where are they coming from?

It certainly looks like we have the Ace, King of Diamonds and the Ace of trumps, but where is the fourth trick coming from?

Seeing that we have the Ace of trumps, we know that we can get a Heart ruff?

Our partner has led the Queen of Diamonds from length, so they must be holding the Jack of Diamonds, so we must take charge.

We overtake our partner's Queen of Diamonds with our King and lead our singleton Heart, so that when we get back in with the Ace of Spades, we can lead a small Diamond to our partner's known Jack of Diamonds, so that they can give us a ruff in Hearts and defeat the contract.

## May The Forcing Defence Be With You

Board 5 ♠ J 10 9 6 3

North Deals ♥ J 10 9 8 5

N-S Vul ♦ A

♣ A K

♠ 8

♥ A 6 4 2

♦ Q 10 6

♣ Q 10 5 3 2



♠ A 7 4 2

♥ 7

♦ K J 9 4 2

♣ 9 6 4

♠ K Q 5

♥ K Q 3

♦ 8 7 5 3

♣ J 8 7

13

8 8

11

West North East South

1 ♠

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

All pass

The spotlight is on EAST for board 5.

The clue to the correct lead for this hand is that we are holding length in the trump suit.

Whenever we are holding length in the trump suit or we suspect that our partner is holding length in the trump suit, then a FORCING defence should be considered.

The forcing defence is probably the most powerful defence that exists.

The objective is to try and make declarer run out of trumps.

This can only be achieved if one of the defenders has extra length in the trump suit and we have a side suit which will produce tricks once the declarer has run out of trumps.

East certainly has length in the trump suit and they have a suit that can potentially be a source of tricks.

The Diamond lead is the killer. It looks a risky lead, however, this adventurous lead at this form of scoring is much easier to find. At pairs, there is a risk that the defence could be giving an expensive overtrick away, however at Teams/Imps scoring the risk of the lead producing exactly the tenth trick for declarer is offset by the massive reward for defeating declarer's game contract.

Let us see how this defence plays out.

## Return the Correct Card at Trick 2

**Board 6**

East Deals ♠ K 10 9

E-W Vul ♥ K 4 3 2

♦ K J 3

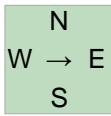
♣ K 8 3

♠ A 8 7 4 2

♥ 10 8 7 6

♦ 7

♣ Q 10 9



♠ Q J 5 3

♥ Q 9 5

♦ A 6 5 4

♣ 7 2

♠ 6

♥ A J

♦ Q 10 9 8 2

♣ A J 6 5 4

13

6 9

12

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

3 NT

All pass

The spotlight is on EAST for board 6. East finds themselves on lead against a 3 NT contract by North and they lead the unbid suit with the 3 of Spades lead.

West wins the trick with the Ace of Spades and they must now lead back the correct Spade card, so that East can work out the correct strategy.

West must now return their original 4th best, which is the 4 of Spades.

North, having played the 9 of Spades at trick one, now plays the 10 of Spades at trick 2.

East wins the trick with the Jack of Spades and now must evaluate the situation.

The rule is that West, at trick 2, has either returned their highest Spade or they have returned the Spade that has precisely two cards higher than itself.

East can rule out the fact that the 4 of Spades is West's highest Spade, as that would give North at least 5 Spades, which is inconsistent with the bidding, so West must be holding two Spades higher than the 4, which can only be the 8 and 7. (West has denied the King of Spades at trick 1).

East's conclusion is that it is safe to continue Spades as West has the 8 and 7 of Spades with the 10 and 9 having been played at tricks one and two.

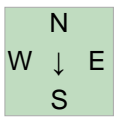
However, there is still work to be done by East. Who has the 2 of Spades? It must be our partner, holding a 5 card Spade suit, so it now essential that East comes back with their Queen of Spades, unblocking the Spade suit and take the 3 NT contract off.

Note that if West had come back the 2 of Spades at trick 2, East would know that West must have started with only 4 Spades, which gives North 4 Spades and a K1098 holding and it would not be correct for East to continue Spades.

# With No Entries to Our Hand, Try to Find Our Partner's Long Suit.

**Board 7** ♠ A J 9  
 South Deals ♥ Q 9 7  
 Both Vul ♦ A Q 6  
 ♣ K 9 5 4

♠ 6 5 2  
 ♥ 8 6  
 ♦ J 10 9 5 3  
 ♣ 10 8 2



♠ 10 8 7  
 ♥ A K J 4 3 2  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ J 7 6

♠ K Q 4 3  
 ♥ 10 5  
 ♦ K 7 4 2  
 ♣ A Q 3

16  
 1 9  
 14

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 NT	All pass	1 NT

The spotlight is on WEST for board 7.

A very common auction.

The Jack of Diamonds lead looks like a very safe opening lead, but in this form of scoring all we are interested in, is to try and defeat the contract.

## Emperor's Coup

Board 8 ♠ K J 7 5 4 2

West Deals ♥ 3 2

None Vul ♦ 8 4

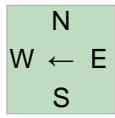
♣ J 3 2

♠ A 10 6

♥ K 6

♦ A 7 2

♣ K Q 10 6 5



♠ 9 8

♥ A Q 7 5

♦ K 9 6

♣ 9 8 7 4

♠ Q 3

♥ J 10 9 8 4

♦ Q J 10 5 3

♣ A

5  
16 9  
10

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

The spotlight is on SOUTH for board 8.

North leads the 5 of Spades and West, the declarer, ducks South's Queen and likewise plays small on South's 3 of Spades continuation.

Now North returns the TWO of Spades and now South has to play the part of Inspector Clouseau.

First Question: What suits will declarer make their 9 tricks from?

Well, looks like 1 Spade, 3 Hearts and 2 Diamonds, so that is THREE tricks short, so declarer must be planning to make quite a few Club tricks?

Second Question: Out of the FOUR Spades that North is known to have remaining, they made a conscious decision to play back

the TWO of Spades, their LOWEST Spade.

It is customary at this stage for the player who has just set their suit up to indicate where their entry is to their hand. (A low card indicating the lowest suit etc).

Our usual maths says:

Dummy Points + Our Points:  $9 + 10 = 19$ , so 21 points in the remaining two unseen hands, which we have seen our partner contribute 4 already, seeing that we can see all the red suit points, we can confidently say that our partner has either 0, 1 or 2 points in Clubs.

We must DISCARD our Ace of Clubs which creates an entry to our partner's hand, if they either have Jxx or Qx of Clubs.



## Controlling the Trump Suit Gives Extra Chances

**Board 9** ♠ J 4  
 North Deals ♥ J 10 9 5  
 E-W Vul ♦ A Q 10 8 3  
 ♣ A K

♠ K Q 10 8 2     ♠ A 5 3  
 ♥ 3 2             ♥ K Q 6  
 ♦ 9 7 6           ♦ 2  
 ♣ 10 9 5          ♣ 8 7 6 4 3 2

♠ 9 7 6  
 ♥ A 8 7 4  
 ♦ K J 5 4  
 ♣ Q J

15  
 5 9  
 11

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			

The spotlight is on EAST for board 9.

West leads the King of Spades.

East is holding the King and Queen of the trump suit, which means that they will definitely be on lead at some future stage.

East should count their tricks and see if they can get to 4.

There should be 2 Spade tricks and a trump trick, so where is the 4th trick coming from?

Surely a Diamond ruff?

East must take control of the situation by overtaking their partner's King of Spades lead with their Ace of Spades and returning the 2 of Diamonds.

When declarer plays the Jack of Hearts from the dummy, we must remember to split our Heart honours by playing the Queen of Hearts.

When we win with our King of Hearts, we play back a Spade to our partner's known Queen of Spades and wait for our Diamond ruff.

## Our Only Hope

**Board 10** ♠ K 8 2  
 East Deals ♥ J 10 9 4 2  
 Both Vul ♦ 8 7 2  
 ♣ J 2

♠ 9 6 5      ♠ Q 10 4  
 ♥ A K Q 6    ♥ 8 3  
 ♦ J 10 9     ♦ A Q 6 5 3  
 ♣ 9 7 3      ♣ A K 5

♠ A J 7 3  
 ♥ 7 5  
 ♦ K 4  
 ♣ Q 10 8 6 4

5  
 10 15  
 10

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

The spotlight is on SOUTH for board 10.

South will presumably lead a Club and when declarer wins the trick and enters dummy to run the Jack of Diamonds, it is time for some observations from South.

It is so important that for the first few tricks that the defence communicate their lengths in the suits that declarer plays.

So when our partner plays their 2 of Hearts at trick 2, they must be holding a 5 card Heart suit, so declarer must be holding at least 8 cards in the Minors.

Our partner played the 2 of Diamonds and this can only be from a 3 card Diamond suit.

Remember that we play our cards upwards with an odd number and peter with an even number.

Next the maths:

Dummy Points + South Points:  $10 + 10 = 20$ , so the unseen hands=20 points;

Our partner having shown us the Jack of Clubs at trick one can only have a maximum of 4 points left and one of those is likely to be the Jack of Hearts. Anyway, our partner would have risen with their Ace of Diamonds, if they had held it.

So let us count declarer's tricks. 4 Diamonds, 2 Clubs and 3 Hearts and that makes 9.

When we know that declarer will make their contract utilising three suits, we have no choice but to try the fourth suit. We must now lead a LOW Spade and hope. Our partner knows that we want Spades continued, because if we wanted our original suit led back to us, we would be playing back a high Spade as discouraging in that suit.

## Desperate Times Requires Desperate Measures

**Board 11** ♠ A 6 4 3

South Deals ♥ K Q 6 2

None Vul ♦ K Q

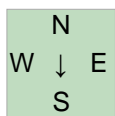
♣ 9 8 7

♠ Q 9 2

♥ 9 7 5 3

♦ 10 8 6 2

♣ A 3



♠ 8 5

♥ J 8

♦ J 9 4 3

♣ K Q J 10 2

♠ K J 10 7

♥ A 10 4

♦ A 7 5

♣ 6 5 4

14  
6 8  
12

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Dbf	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

The spotlight is on EAST for board 11.

East makes a lead directing double of North's 2 Club Stayman bid.

West dutifully leads their Ace of Clubs and continues the suit. East now cashes their King and Queen of Clubs.

It is time for East to do some maths.

Dummy Points + Our Points (East):

$$14 + 8 = 22$$

This leaves the unseen hands having 18 points, of which our partner has shown us 4 of those at trick 1.

Our partner can only have, at maximum, two more points left.

We are certainly 'Desperate'.

We must do something desperate.

Let's try playing a fourth round of Clubs.

If South ruffs with the 10 of Spades, providing West does not overruff as per the previous theme, the defence will come to a trump trick. If declarer ruffs with their seven, West can overruff with their 9 and hence promoting their Queen.

## Win the First Trick With the Ace, if Switching to a Singleton

Board 12 ♠ 2

West Deals ♥ 4 3 2

N-S Vul ♦ A Q 9 8 2

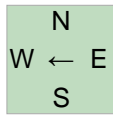
♣ J 10 9 8

♠ A K Q J 6 4

♥ Q J 7

♦ J 6 5

♣ Q



♠ 10 9 8

♥ K 10 9 8 6

♦ K 7 3

♣ 7 5

♠ 7 5 3

♥ A 5

♦ 10 4

♣ A K 6 4 3 2

7  
16 6  
11

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♣
4 ♠	All pass		

The spotlight is on NORTH for board 12, with a little help from their partner.

North should lead their Jack of Clubs at trick one and South should win with the KING of Clubs.

It is very tempting for South to just go through the motions and continue with the Ace of Clubs and wait for something good to happen, however, dummy's Heart suit looks menacing.

Whenever we see a long side suit in dummy, we have to get active and attempt to take our tricks in other suits.

We certainly cannot make any more Club tricks, so the Diamond suit is our only hope.

South must switch to the 10 of Diamonds at trick 2.

Through the eyes of North, the 10 of Diamonds is a short suit switch and could easily be a singleton and the correct defence could be for North to give their partner a quick ruff in Diamonds.

However, the fact that South won the first trick with the KING of clubs suggests that the switch at trick 2 is not a singleton.

If South had been switching to a singleton, they would have won the first trick with their Ace of Clubs.

North must now play low (If West plays the Jack, then North inserts the Queen). It is important that North does not win with their Ace of Diamonds.

North must now wait for South to win with the Ace of Hearts, so that South can play the second round of Diamonds, so that North can now take two more Diamond tricks and defeat the contract.

## Do Not Overruff When You Have a Strong Trump Holding

**Board 13** ♠ K 9 3

North Deals ♥ 9 7

Both Vul ♦ 9 5 4 3 2

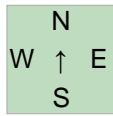
♣ J 10 9

♠ A Q J

♥ Q 5

♦ K J 6

♣ Q 5 4 3 2



♠ 8 7 6 5 4 2

♥ 8 6 2

♦ A Q

♣ A K

♠ 10

♥ A K J 10 4 3

♦ 10 8 7

♣ 8 7 6

4  
15 13  
8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

The spotlight is on NORTH for board 13.

South leads the King, Ace and Jack of Hearts for the first three tricks with dummy ruffing with the Jacks of Spades on the third trick.

Unless North has something urgent to do for the next trick, which is certainly not the case here, North should refrain from overruffing with the King of Spades. (Our King of Spades is not running away).

If North overruffs at trick 3, then declarer has the rest of the tricks and the game contract is made.

Look what happens when North refrains from ruffing.

Declarer will enter their hand to take the Spade finesse and when you win with the King of Spades, amazingly your 9 of Spades is now also a winner.

## Surrounding Play

Board 14 ♠ A J 8 5

East Deals ♥ 5

None Vul ♦ 10 7 5

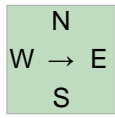
♣ A K J 9 4

♠ 7 6

♥ 10 9 8

♦ A 8 6 2

♣ 8 5 3 2



♠ 4 2

♥ A Q J 7 6 2

♦ K J 9

♣ 10 6

♠ K Q 10 9 3

♥ K 4 3

♦ Q 4 3

♣ Q 7

13  
4 11  
12

West North East South

Pass 4 ♠ All pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠

The spotlight is on EAST for board 14.

East wins the first trick with the Ace of Hearts and looks at the menacing dummy.

We do not need to be a genius to work out that declarer is going to make their contract very easily with lots of black tricks, King of Hearts and probably even a Heart ruff, so we must make some Diamond tricks, whilst we can.

So which Diamond do we play at trick 2?

We have both ingredients for a 'Surrounding Play'.

The first ingredient being that we have dummy's highest card 'Surrounded'. i.e. We have dummy's 10 of Diamonds

surrounded with our Jack and Nine of Diamonds.

The second ingredient is that we have an additional higher honour.

So the strategy is that we play the card which is one above dummy's top card i.e. Our Jack of Diamonds.

Once we play the Jack of Diamonds, we must take three Diamond tricks and defeat the contract.

Note that if we play any other Diamond declarer will escape with just the two Diamond losers and will successfully make their contract.

# When Partner Passes Our Take-Out Double at the One Level - Lead a Trump

**Board 15** ♠ Q 8 7 4

South Deals ♥ 5 3

N-S Vul ♦ 9 7 6 3 2

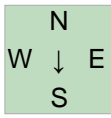
♣ 6 3

♠ K 10 6 2

♥ K Q 10 8

♦ K Q J 10

♣ 2



♠ A

♥ J 9 6

♦ 8 5 4

♣ Q J 10 9 7 4

♠ J 9 5 3

♥ A 7 4 2

♦ A

♣ A K 8 5

2  
14 8  
16

West North East South

1 ♣

Dbl All pass

The spotlight is on WEST for board 15.

This auction requires us to lead a TRUMP.

We have all read this advice in bridge books, but do we know why we should take this advice?

## Lead the King to Request an Unblock of an Honour

**Board 16** ♠ J 10 9 8

West Deals ♥ 7 6

E-W Vul ♦ A 9

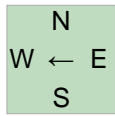
♣ K Q 10 9 4

♠ K 7 6

♥ A Q 8

♦ K 7 6

♣ A 7 6 5



♠ A Q 2

♥ K 10 4

♦ Q 8 5 4 3 2

♣ 8

♠ 5 4 3

♥ J 9 5 3 2

♦ J 10

♣ J 3 2

10  
16 11  
3

West

1 NT

North

Pass

East

3 NT

South

All pass

The spotlight is on NORTH/SOUTH for board 16.

On board 16, there may have been an alternative auction:

1 ♣ - 1 ♦

1 NT - 3 NT

Either way the King of Clubs is the lead from North, which requests their partner, South, to play an honour if they hold it.

South plays their Jack of Clubs and the defence comfortably take their five tricks to defeat West's 3 NT contract.

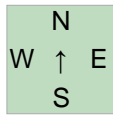
If South does not play their Jack of Clubs at trick 1, North would have to assume that West holds the Ace and Jack of Clubs and North would have to give up on the Club suit.



## Sacrificing/Distributional Hands - Lead a Trump

**Board 17** ♠ A Q 2  
 North Deals ♥ 6 4 3  
 None Vul ♦ A K 9 2  
 ♣ 8 7 6

♠ K 9 8 7 5  
 ♥ A 8 7 5 2  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ A 2



♠ J 10 3  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ 8 7 6 5 3  
 ♣ K 5 4 3

♠ 6 4  
 ♥ K Q 10 9  
 ♦ J 10 4  
 ♣ Q J 10 9

13  
 13 5  
 9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	All pass

The spotlight is on SOUTH for board 17.

North opens a weak No Trump and West should make a bid to show both majors.

East has no choice but to bid 2 Spades.

Here is the logic process that should be going through South's head:

We certainly hold the majority of points, however our opponents are expecting to make eight tricks.

We have more Aces and Kings than them, so they must be expecting to make tricks from their small cards.

The easiest way for declarer to do that, especially with distributional hands, is to make a number of trump tricks through ruffing.

We must lead a trump; every time we can lead a trump, we remove two trumps of declarer.

## Surrounding Play

**Board 18** ♠ A K 6 3

East Deals ♥ 9 2

N-S Vul ♦ 9 6 4

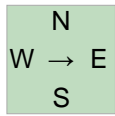
♣ Q 10 8 3

♠ Q 10 9

♥ J 10 7 6

♦ K Q 10

♣ 9 6 2



♠ 5 4

♥ A K Q 5 4

♦ A 8 2

♣ A J 7

♠ J 8 7 2

♥ 8 3

♦ J 7 5 3

♣ K 5 4

9  
8 18  
5

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

The spotlight is on NORTH for board 18.

South may well lead the 2 of Spades at trick one.

Even if they do not, declarer, at some stage, will lead a Spade to the 9, with South having played their 8 of Spades, indicating an even number of Spades.

In either case, North will find themselves on lead with their King of Spades.

They should be alert to the imminent danger that declarer will next play a Spade to the 10 and therefore setting up the Queen of Spades which will result in a losing Club being discarded from the East hand.

This is not the time for North to be passive. The defence must take their Club tricks before one of them disappears on that menacing Queen of Spades.

So North must play a Club, but which one?

The clue is that we have dummy's top Club, which is the 9 of Clubs, 'Surrounded' with our 10 and 8 of Clubs and not only that, we have a higher Club which is our Queen of Clubs, so this constitutes a 'Surrounding Play' situation, which means we must play the Club which is one above Dummy's Club, i.e. the 10 of Clubs.

Look what happens when we lead the 10 of Clubs.

If declarer plays the Jack, South wins with the King and returns a Club and now North has the Queen, eight of Clubs surrounding dummy's nine, so the defence must make two Club tricks, which defeats the 4 ♥ contract.

## Ace or King Lead?

**Board 19** ♠ 7 6 4 3

South Deals ♥ K Q 4

E-W Vul ♦ J 6 5

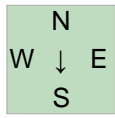
♣ K Q 3

♠ 5 2

♥ 6 5 3 2

♦ A K 9 2

♣ A 7 6



♠ J 8

♥ J 10 9 8

♦ 8 7

♣ J 10 9 8 2

♠ A K Q 10 9

♥ A 7

♦ Q 10 4 3

♣ 5 4

11  
11 3  
15

West North East South

Pass 2 ♣ Pass 2 ♦

Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

All pass

The spotlight is on WEST for board 19.

West must decide which top Diamond to lead at trick 1.

The whereabouts of the Queen of Diamonds is not going to help us, so we lead the King of Diamonds, requesting our partner to give us a COUNT signal in the Diamond suit.

East dutifully plays their 8 of Diamonds, the start of a High-Low signal.

West continues with the Ace of Diamonds and East plays their 7 of Diamonds.

Even if South has not bid their Diamonds on this auction, we know that it is our partner who is the one holding the doubleton Diamond, because using our method that our partner initially plays their highest Diamond and then

subsequently plays their lowest Diamond to the second trick, they cannot be holding four diamonds.

(If East had held Q1087, they would have played their 10 of Diamonds on the first trick).

We must be greedy and go for a second ruff, so we play the TWO of Diamonds for our partner to ruff. The TWO of Diamonds is our LOWER Diamond, so our partner knows that having ruffed the Diamond at trick 3, they should return the LOWER suit, which is a Club to return to our hand, which enables West to play a fourth round of Diamonds for our partner to ruff and take the 4 ♠ contract 2 off.

## When Declarer Plays in Their Second Suit - Lead a Trump

**Board 20** ♠ K J 10 8

West Deals ♥ 10 9 7

Both Vul ♦ A 9 2

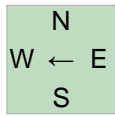
♣ A 7 3

♠ A Q 9 7 4

♥ 5

♦ K 8 3

♣ K J 10 6



♠ 3

♥ K J 6 4 2

♦ Q 10 6

♣ Q 9 5 2

♠ 6 5 2

♥ A Q 8 3

♦ J 7 5 4

♣ 8 4

12  
13 8  
7

West

North

East

South

1 ♠

Pass

1 NT

Pass

2 ♣

All pass

The spotlight is on NORTH for board 20.

The key to finding the correct opening lead is to listen very carefully to the auction and try to visualise what dummy will look like and anticipate how declarer is going to make their tricks.

One thing that we know about dummy is that it has very few Spades, so declarer will be ruffing their long Spades at every opportunity.

We must lead trumps at every opportunity. Every time we can lead a trump, we will remove two of declarer's trumps.

When holding 3 trumps, it is usually best to lead the smallest of the 3 trumps, so that when either of the defenders wins a trick, the defence will be able to draw two more rounds of trumps.

## Controlling the Trump Suit Gives Extra Chances

**Board 21** ♠ J 10 9 8 7

North Deals ♥ 5 3 2

N-S Vul ♦ K 10

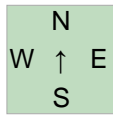
♣ Q J 3

♠ A 3

♥ K Q 8 6 4

♦ A 8 5

♣ 10 6 2



♠ 5 4

♥ 10 7

♦ 9 7 6

♣ K 9 8 7 5 4

♠ K Q 6 2

♥ A J 9

♦ Q J 4 3 2

♣ A

7  
13 3  
17

West North East South

Pass

Pass

1 ♦

1 ♥

1 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

All pass

The spotlight is on WEST for board 21.

East leads the 10 of Hearts, which is obviously a short suit lead.

Declarer should cover with the Jack and West wins with their Queen of Hearts.

It looks 'Suicidal' to return a Heart straight back into dummy's A9, however, we are holding the Ace of trumps, which means we are guaranteed to get the lead back very soon.

Therefore, playing a second round of Hearts at trick 2 is the winning defence.

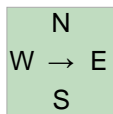
When South leads a small Spade West must jump up with the Ace of Spades to give their partner a Heart ruff.

Any other defence will result in declarer being able to establish dummy's Diamonds to discard their losing Heart.

## Win the First Trick With the Ace, If Switching to a Singleton

**Board 22** ♠ J 6 4  
 East Deals ♥ 7 6 3 2  
 E-W Vul ♦ 10 7  
 ♣ A K 8 5

♠ Q 7 2  
 ♥ A 5  
 ♦ K 6 5  
 ♣ 9 6 4 3 2



♠ A K 9 8 5  
 ♥ K Q 10 9 8  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ Q 7

♠ 10 3  
 ♥ J 4  
 ♦ A Q 9 8 4 3 2  
 ♣ J 10

8  
 9 15  
 8

West	North	East	South
3 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	3 ♦
		4 ♠	All pass

The spotlight is on NORTH for board 22.

With the given auction, South should be leading the Jack of Clubs at trick one.

North has to plan the defence very carefully.

North can more or less assume that their partner holds the Ace of Diamonds for their bid, so, for the defence, North can count the Ace, King of Clubs and the Ace of Diamonds and then there is the possibility of a trump promotion with the third round of Clubs, however the tricks must be cashed in the correct order.

If North tries to give their partner a Club ruff too early, declarer will discard their losing Diamond on the third round of Clubs, so the defence must be precise in that North wins

the first trick with the KING of Clubs, plays a Diamond to South's Ace, who then then returns a Club back to North's Ace, who now plays that third round of Clubs which guarantees a trump trick for the defence.

Let's look at the defence through the eyes of South. They see their partner partner switch to the 10 of Diamonds at trick two. The 10 of Diamonds is obviously a short suit switch and could easily be a singleton and the correct defence could easily be to continue and give North a Diamond ruff?

But hold on, if North was going to switch to their singleton Diamond at trick two, then the strategy is that they win the first trick with the Ace?

So North, by winning the first trick with their King of Clubs has told their partner that they will not be switching to a singleton at trick 2 and that the Diamond switch must be from a doubleton.

When South comes to this conclusion, they will continue with the Club suit at trick 3 and wait for their trump promotion with the third round of Clubs.

## Make Every Effort to Win Trick 2 to Preserve Our Partner's Entry

**Board 23** ♠ A K 8

South Deals ♥ A K

Both Vul ♦ J 10 8 7

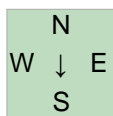
♣ 7 6 3 2

♠ Q 7 2

♥ Q J 10 9 4

♦ 4 3 2

♣ K 8



♠ 10 9 6 5 4

♥ 8 7

♦ 9 6 5

♣ A 5 4

♠ J 3

♥ 6 5 3 2

♦ A K Q

♣ Q J 10 9

15  
8 4  
13

West North East South

1 NT

Pass 3 NT All pass

The spotlight is on EAST for board 23.

West leads the Queen of Hearts and East is holding such a 'Boring' hand that it is so easy to just 'Go Through the Motions'.

However, even when the hand looks so trivial, we must be alert in readiness for known strategies.

Our thought process should be:

Our partner has made an attacking lead and our best chance to defeat the contract is to make tricks in the suit that our partner has led.

We know our strategy here, which is to make every effort to win a trick as soon as possible, whilst we are able to help our partner establish their long suit and more importantly preserve

our partner's entry.

So as soon as we have played to the first trick, rather than look out of the window waiting to follow suit to the second trick, we should already be anticipating our play to the second trick.

In fact we have our Ace of Clubs in our hand even before declarer has called for a small Club from dummy.

We play our Ace of Clubs at trick two and continue our partner's Heart suit.

Now we can go back to sleep.

Our partner still has the King of Clubs as an entry to their Hearts, which have now been set up.

This is the only defence to defeat the 3 NT contract.

## Do Not Overruff When You Have a Strong Trump Holding

Board 24 ♠ —

West Deals ♥ A K Q 8 6 3

None Vul ♦ 8 6 4 3

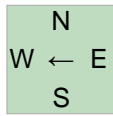
♣ Q J 9

♠ A 8 6 5 4 3

♥ 9 7 2

♦ Q J

♣ A 10



♠ K 10 9

♥ J 10

♦ A K 9 7 5

♣ K 3 2

♠ Q J 7 2

♥ 5 4

♦ 10 2

♣ 8 7 6 5 4

12  
11 14  
3

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

The spotlight is on SOUTH for board 24.

North is in a final contract of 4 Spades and North leads their top three Heart tricks, with East (Dummy), ruffing with the 9 of Spades on the third trick.

It may look tempting for South to overruff with their Jack of Spades, however this will be the last trick for the defence as declarer will have the simple task of playing a Spade to the King and what with North showing out in Spades, declarer will just run the 10 of Spades, taking the marked finesse against South's Queen of Spades.

If South refrains from overruffing (They should discard a Diamond), then South must now make two more Spade tricks.

When declarer plays a Spade to the King, then all that South needs to do is cover the 10 of Spades and wait for their two Spade tricks and defeat the contract.