

Board 1 Dealer N Vul none

N E S W  
 p p 1♣ p  
 1♦ p 1♥ p  
 4♥ all pass

*Trump leads stop dummy-trumping*

1		♠ 852	Dir: N
		♥ AQ96	Vul: None
		♦ A10643	
		♣ 3	
♠ QJ4		♠ K1097	
♥ 43		♥ 752	
♦ J72		♦ KQ98	
♣ AJ1097		♣ 86	
		♠ A63	
		♥ KJ108	
		♦ 5	
		♣ KQ542	
			♠♦♥♣NT
			N 1 - 3 1 1
			S 1 - 3 1 1
			E - - - - -
			W - - - - -

North didn't open yet leapt to game after South's second bid, even though that didn't promise any extra strength.

South's 1♥ bid has seriously improved North's hand which strongly indicates North is short in clubs confirmed by noting West's good clubs.

So to prevent North trumping clubs West must lead a trump at the start and another after winning with the ♣A.

That forces declarer to use four of his trumps to make just two tricks. Those, along with the one trick in each off-suit and the last four trumps separately, only come to nine tricks.

Board 2 Dealer E Vul NS

E S W N  
 1♠ 2♥ all pass

*Trump leads stop dummy-trumping*

2		♠ K	Dir: E
		♥ Q	Vul: N-S
		♦ AK6532	
		♣ 87542	
♠ 876		♠ AQJ104	
♥ 8652		♥ A3	
♦ 1094		♦ QJ87	
♣ QJ10		♣ 93	
		♠ 9532	
		♥ KJ10974	
		♦ AK6	
			♠♦♥♣NT
			N 4 2 1 - 1
			S 4 2 1 - 1
			E - - - 1 -
			W - - - 1 -

East wins ♠A and must lead ♥A next to prevent dummy trumping the next spade.

East then wins three more spade tricks, and it is a good idea to lead the last spade as it might promote a trump trick in West's hand.

Although South can afford to trump that one high he might carelessly neglect to. If so West will over-trump with the ♥8.

Unfortunately for South the diamond void prevents access to dummy's ♦AK and a club trick will have to be lost as well.

Board 3 Dealer S Vul EW

S W N E  
 1♠ p 1NT p  
 3♣ p 4♣ p  
 4♠ all pass

*Run declarer out of Trumps*

3		♠ Q7	Dir: S
		♥ 6532	Vul: E-W
		♦ 942	
		♣ KJ86	
♠ A432		♠ 86	
♥ KQJ10		♥ 9874	
♦ 753		♦ J1086	
♣ 93		♠ A104	
		♥ A	
		♦ AKQ	
		♣ Q752	
			♠♦♥♣NT
			N 4 1 - 3 2
			S 4 1 - 3 2
			E - - - - -
			W - - - - -

Four trumps in a defender's hand can often be a threat to declarer.

Here when West leads ♥K and, after winning with ♠A, another heart it reduces South's trump length to the same as West's.

That means South won't be able to remove all West's trumps without also removing all of his own.

Then, when East wins with the ♣A East-West take two more heart tricks as South will not having any trumps left to stop them.

Board 4 Dealer W Vul all

W N E S  
 p 1NT X 2♦  
 all pass

*Trump promotion*

4		♠ 763	Dir: W
		♥ AK83	Vul: Both
		♦ AK10	
		♣ 1072	
♠ J1094		♠ AK8	
♥ Q752		♥ 10964	
♦ Q5		♦ J2	
♣ 963		♣ AKQ5	
		♠ Q52	
		♥ J	
		♦ 987643	
		♣ J84	
			♠♦♥♣NT
			N - 1 - - -
			S - 1 - - -
			E - - 2 1 -
			W - - 2 1 -

West should lead ♠J (which denies the ♠Q) and East should win with ♠K followed by ♠A then the three top clubs.

After all follow to the clubs East knows South's eight remaining cards include ♠Q and at least five diamonds.

That means South has at most two hearts and there are no more off-suit tricks for East-West.

East should look for a trump promotion. This can be achieved by leading the last club and West playing ♦Q, forcing out North's ♦K.

East's ♦J now becomes a trick as East will have ♦J 2 sitting over North's ♦A 10.

Board 5 Dealer N Vul NS

N E S W  
 p p 1♥ p  
 1♠ p 2♦ all pass

Trump leads stop dummy-trumping

5		♠ AK643	Dir: N
		♥ 2	Vul: N-S
♠ 98	♥ KQJ109	♦ 987	♣ QJ105
♥ KQJ109	♦ A2	♣ 7653	♥ 87
♣ J1098	♠ 72	♥ A6543	♦ K54
7	♥ A6543	♦ QJ1063	♣ KQ42
11 11	♦ QJ1063	♣ A	
11	♣ A		
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N - 1 - 1 -
			S - 1 - 1 -
			E 2 - 1 - -
			W 2 - 1 - -

West's hearts, sitting over South who bid them, look like four sure tricks.

That is unless they can be trumped in dummy which, on the bidding, is very likely.

So West must lead trumps.

Every trump removed from dummy equates to an extra trick in hearts for West.

Happily West has ♦A so can lead two rounds immediately. And more happily East has ♦K and can lead a third round taking out all dummy's trumps so West can enjoy four heart tricks.

Board 6 Dealer E Vul EW

E S W N  
 p 1♥ p 2♣  
 p 4♣ p 4♥  
 all pass

Trump declarer's tricks

6		♠ 76	Dir: E
		♥ QJ4	Vul: E-W
♠ J532	♥ A	♦ Q983	♣ KQ95
♥ A	♦ 10542	♠ 10984	♥ 8753
♦ A643	♠ AKQ	♥ KJ76	♦ 2
10	♥ K10962	♣ 2	
9 4	♦ A		
17	♣ J1087		
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N 4 - 3 - 3
			S 4 - 3 - 3
			E - - - -
			W - - - -

West needs to take note of the bidding here.

Both opponents have bid clubs and West has four of them.

That means East probably has only one, maybe none at all.

So West should lead ♣A and follow with another club, which East will trump.

When West wins with the ♥A a further club lead will again be trumped by East.

Board 7 Dealer S Vul all

S W N E  
 1♠ p 4♠ p  
 6♠ all pass

Trump declarer's tricks

7		♠ KJ84	Dir: S
		♥ 63	Vul: Both
♠ 732	♥ Q109	♦ KQ5	♠ 754
♥ Q109	♦ J97632	♣ KJ108	♦ A1084
♣ 3	♠ AQ10965	♥ AKJ82	♣ A97652
13	♥ AKJ82	♣ Q4	
3 8	♣ Q4		
16			
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N 2 - 3 5 5
			S 2 - 2 5 3
			E - 3 - - -
			W - 3 - - -

West should lead the ♣3 and East's ♣A wins.

Should East lead the other ace?

**Never!!**

Not even if East thinks South is rash enough to bid a slam without checking if the opponents might have two aces.

Instead East must look hard at the clubs.

Every club is visible except ♣Q and *South must have it.*

So a club return will be trumped by West.

Even if South cunningly dropped ♣Q under the ♣A East will still know declarer has ♣4. If West had ♣43 the ♣4 would have been led ("always lead the higher of two card holding")

Board 8 Dealer W Vul none

W N E S  
 p p p 1♠  
 p 1NT p 2♠  
 all pass

Trump promotion

8		♠ 75	Dir: W
		♥ 1074	Vul: None
♠ J62	♥ AK63	♦ 98542	♠ 104
♥ AK63	♦ J6	♣ AK4	♥ Q92
♦ J6	♠ 10762	♥ AK983	♦ AK73
♣ 10762	♥ J85	♦ Q10	♣ J985
7	♦ Q10	♣ Q3	
9 10	♣ Q3		
14			
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N - 1 - 1 1
			S - 1 - 1 1
			E 2 - 1 - -
			W 2 - 1 - -

West should lead ♥AK and a third heart, East's ♥Q winning.

East should now lead ♦AK and, noticing both South and West have no more diamonds, lead a third diamond hoping to promote a trump in West's hand.

If South trumps low it will be over-trumped by West's ♠J. And if South trumps high that will leave him with ♠AK983 while West will have ♠J62 and will ultimately win a trick with the ♠J.