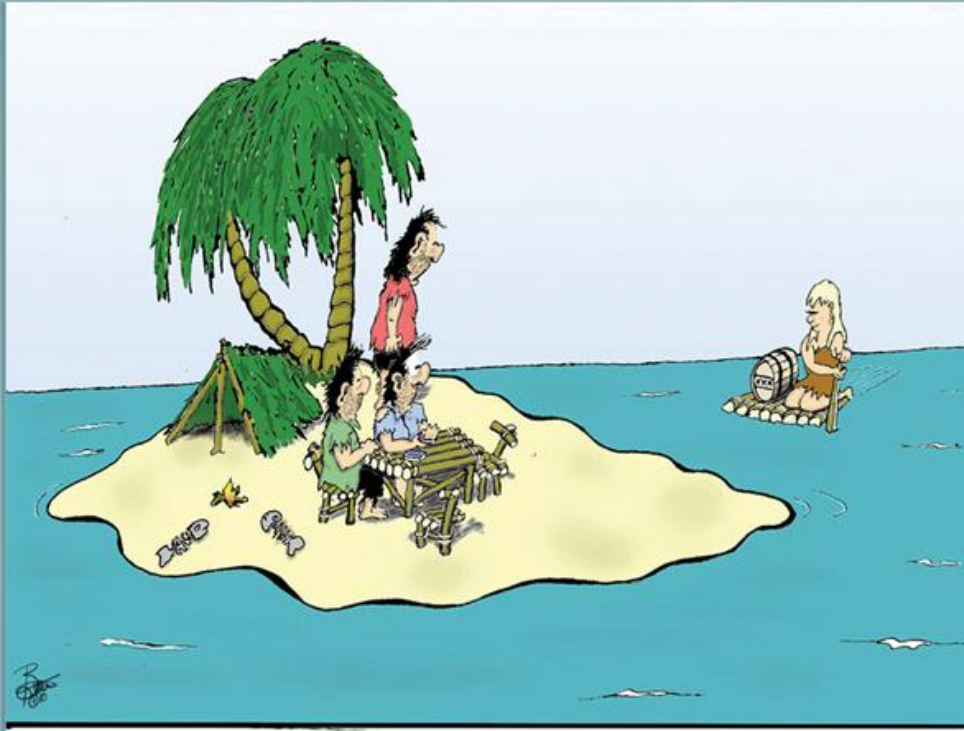


Module 14 – Planning and Play of Suit Contracts

Out Of Hand and Off The Fairway - Bill Buttle



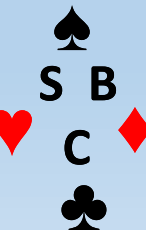
With our luck she won't know anything about bridge

1. Planning play in TRUMP Contracts
2. Quiz
3. Playing 6 Hands

Kkeep
It
Simple
Stupid



This week's Paddy's Pearl



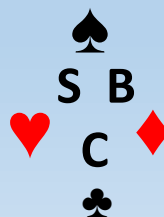


Key Steps in Playing Trump Contracts

1. When playing Trump/Suit contracts you **DON'T** count your **Sure tricks** **until you have drawn trumps**. ***If you haven't taken out trumps you cannot count AKQ in a side suit as 3 SURE tricks as the 3rd is liable to be ruffed/trumped***
2. Because side suit honours may no longer be SURE, ***invariably declarer draws trump ASAP.***
3. In Trump Contracts declarer counts **LOSERS** of the combined hands **not Sure tricks**. ***Losers are the ticks that may be lost, looking at each suit in turn, starting with the trump contract.***
4. Having counted the combined hands losers, declarer knows how many tricks he is short of to make contract. In 3NT you must have ≤ 4 losers, in $4\spadesuit$ and $4\heartsuit \leq 3$ losers and $5\diamondsuit$ and $5\clubsuit \leq 2$ losers.

The key steps are therefore:

1. Count your LOSING tricks (between the two hands)
2. Invariably take out trumps
3. Establish your WORK suit after trumps removed.
4. After trumps are removed the WORK suit and develop that suit as in NT contracts.





PLANNING PLAY IN TRUMP CONTRACTS

How do we reduce our losers?

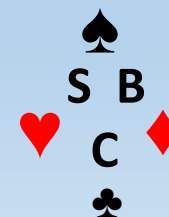
You must consider how to reduce your losers to the required number

We might *take a finesse* 1098 opposite AQ54, lead 10 and let it run unless the J or K are played, if 10 draws K then you have eliminated 1 loser since J is under AQ.

Establish a side suit Then we can discard losers on winners on the side suit winners

These are typical plays of establishing winners in WORK suits in NT, but can only be done after eliminating trumps in trump contracts.

Draw trumps as soon as you safely can

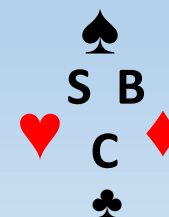




PLANNING PLAY IN TRUMP CONTRACTS

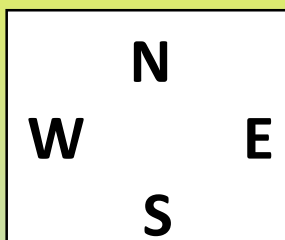
1. Count your LOSERS.
2. If there are too many then consider ways of reducing them
3. Draw Trumps if
you can do so without losing the lead
OR
you can afford to lose the lead because your losers are not Immediate
4. If you have too many immediate losers take essential discards, ***then draw trumps***

Don't draw more trump than you need to as you may need the extra trump as ruffs for your weak side suits



What are LOSER tricks and how many do I have?

| | | |
|---------|--|---------|
| ♠ AKQJ3 | | ♠ 10952 |
| ♥ A5 | | ♥ KQ4 |
| ♦ 985 | | ♦ A72 |
| ♣ QJ5 | | ♣ K83 |



West plays in 4♠ and N leads the ♦K

West counts LOSERS.

0 losers in spades, this is a solid suit

0 losers in hearts, also a solid suit, *unless ruffed*

2 losers in diamonds once ♦A is played

1 lose in clubs, since defenders hold the ♣A

A total of 3 losers

Take the ♦A on trick 1 and then remove trumps.

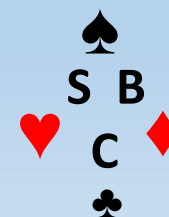
West can afford to have 3 losers to make his require 10 tricks

He can expect to make 5♠ tricks, 3♥, 1♦ and 2♣ so long as trump are removed

Immediately and one losing diamond is discarded on the 3rd heart in East.

He must remove trump before playing the WORK suit, clubs.

SURE TRICKS can wait – Invariably play your TRUMP suit first





PLANNING PLAY IN TRUMP CONTRACTS

How Many LOSER Tricks does Declarer have and how does he play?

a)

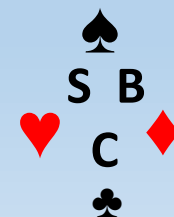
| | | |
|-----------|--|--------|
| ♠ 1076 | <div>W<div>N</div>E</div> <div>S</div> | ♠ 982 |
| ♥ AK7 | | ♥ Q65 |
| ♦ AJ10875 | | ♦ K92 |
| ♣ J | | ♣ KQ53 |

West plays 2♦ and N leads ♠A
W losers are: 3♠, 0♥, 1♦, 1♣ Total 5
N takes the first 3♠ and leads a ♥
Take in W. Declarer takes out trump;
With 9 diamonds RARELY finesse
Take ♦AK, if ♦9 drops you make 9 tricks.
Losing only a club trick

b)

| | | |
|---------|--|---------|
| ♠ AQJ84 | <div>W<div>N</div>E</div> <div>S</div> | ♠ 10632 |
| ♥ K83 | | ♥ AJ6 |
| ♦ 9 | | ♦ KQ7 |
| ♣ AK43 | | ♣ J92 |

West plays in 4♠ and North plays ♦J
There are 4 losers: 1 in each suit
Declarer needs to reduce losers.
S is unlikely to lead another ♦ after taking the ♦A. If he does you discard your losing ♥
If not, go to dummy and lead ♠10 and Finesse through ♠AQ and there is no loser if S has ♠K

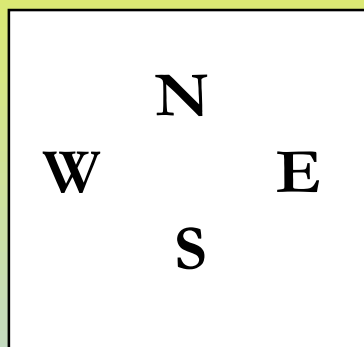




Planning play in a TRUMP Contract

How Will West play in 4♥?

♠A76
♥AKQ73
♦Q9
♣QJ8



♠982
♥10965
♦AK7
♣1096

North leads ♠Q

4 Losers: 2 spades, and 2 clubs, *one too many*.

But declarer has 3 top diamonds and a losing trick can be discard on the 3rd ♦ in East.

West takes the ♠A

Take out trump with ♥A, ♥K and if necessary ♥Q.

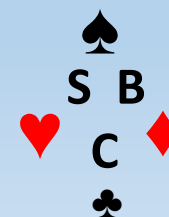
Next play 3 top diamonds discarding a spade.

Declarer now starts establishing his WORK suit.

He plays ♣10 losing to defence how now take their

Spade trick and declarer ruffs the next spade and

leads another club to make his 10th trick





Planning play in a TRUMP Contract

How Will West play in 4♥?

♠A76
♥KQJ73
♦Q9
♣QJ8

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠982
♥10965
♦AK7
♣K109

North leads ♠Q

4 Losers: 2 ♠, 1 ♥ and 1 ♣, *still one too many.*

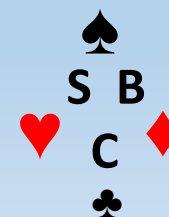
Again declarer has 3 top diamonds and a losing trick

However, on this occasion you cannot take trump out as you would lose to the ♥A and defence would take 2 Spades and ♣A, *one down.*

On this occasion after taking trick 1 with the ♠A and the play 3 top diamonds discarding a spade *before taking out trump.*

You risk the 3rd diamond being *ruffed* but it is the only way to make.

Note: If a spade had not been led, your losers would not be immediate and therefore you could have drawn trump first on this occasion.





Planning play in a TRUMP Contract

A Further Example of delaying drawing trumps

a) Taking a discard

♠QJ652

♥8

♦AKQ

♣10764

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠109843

♥QJ32

♦82

♣A3

West plays in 4♠ and N leads the ♣K which is taken by ♣A.

There are 4 losers, 2♠, 1♥ and 2♣, *one too many*.

Don't draw trump risk a ruff on the 3rd ♦ by playing ♦AKQ in order to discard the losing ♣3.

You can now take out trump as you will only have 3 losers.

Note: The spades and hearts are immediate losers, the defence can take them as soon as they get into the lead. The club loser becomes immediate when the ♣A is taken out. If north had not led clubs then the club would have been an eventual loser, not immediate.

When you have no immediate losers you can take out trumps as there is no urgency to take your discard.





Planning play in a TRUMP Contract

b) Keeping Control while establishing your WORK suit.

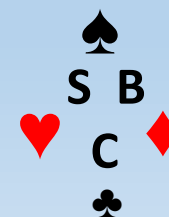
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--------|
| | ♠6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥QJ1093 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦A92 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣J984 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠AJ97 | <table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠KQ104 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥K4 | | ♥A65 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦QJ1043 | | ♦K5 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣Q5 | | ♣7632 | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♠8532 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥872 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦876 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣AK2 | | | | | | | | | | |

West plays 4♠. N leads the ♥Q

There are 3 losers, 1 diamond and 2 clubs. *No problem*
West takes the trick with ♥K and takes out trump by
Leading the ♠A, but N shows out on the 2nd spade.
Now we have a problem.

You cannot pull out all trumps as defenders would take
3 club tricks when you lose to the ♦A. *You must keep
trumps to control the club suit.*

So you must not continue the spades. You now go to
your work suit, diamonds, and when the ♦A is drawn
you can ruff the 3rd club and make the contract
having established the WORK suit





Module 14 Quiz

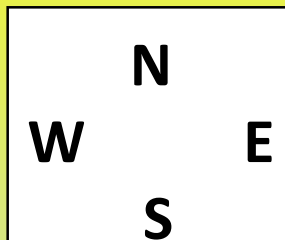
Q1

♠ A963

♥ 10

♦ A74

♣ KQJ75



♠ 8

♥ Q974

♦ 832

♣ A10963

West plays in 3♣

North leads ♦ Q

1. How many LOSERS can you count?

3

2. Any reason not to draw trump?

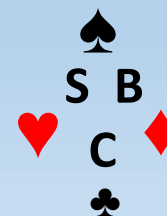
No

3. Which will you play first?

Spades

4. How many tricks do you expect to make?

10

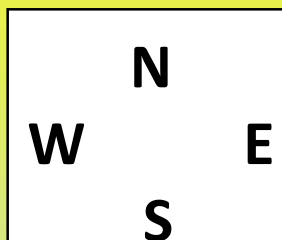




Module 14 Quiz

Q2

♠ QJ
♥ KQJ6
♦ J1054
♣ AK5



♠ 43
♥ A1093
♦ AQ82
♣ J92

West plays in 4♥

North leads ♠A, then ♠K

Next he plays a ♥?

1. How many LOSERS can you count?

4

2. Any reason not to draw trump?

No

3. Which will you play first?

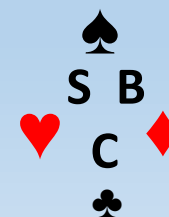
Hearts

4. Which is the WORK suit?

Diamonds

1. How many tricks do you expect to make?

9 or 10 (depends on finesse)





Module 14 Quiz

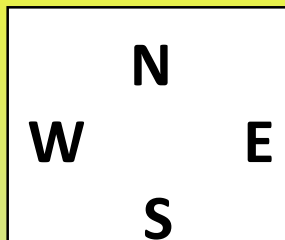
Q3

♠ A5

♥ 3

♦ KQJ105432

♣ 95



♠ KQ2

♥ J109875

♦ 6

♣ A76

West plays in 5♦

North leads ♣Q?

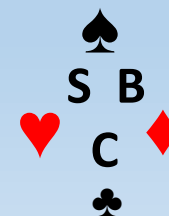
1. How many LOSERS can you count?
2. Any reason not to draw trump?
3. Which will you play first?
4. How many tricks do you expect to make?

3

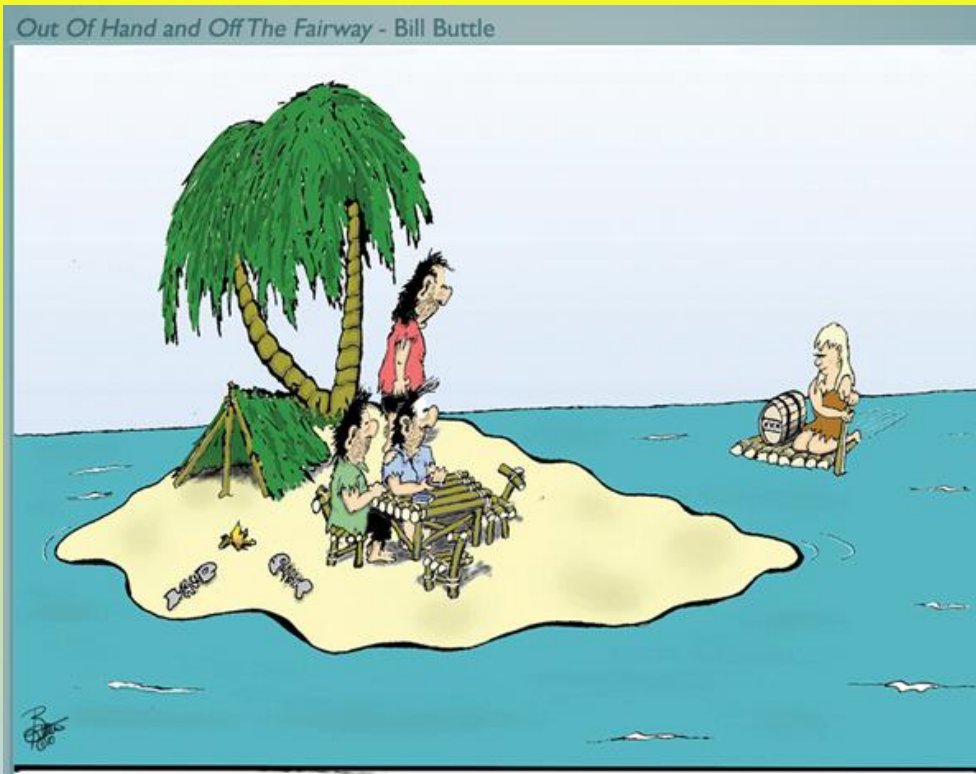
No

Spades

11



Playing Hands for Module 14



With our luck she won't know anything about bridge

Kkeep
It
Simple
Stupid



This week's Paddy's Pearl





Dealer: North
Vulnerability: Non Vul

♠6 **8HCP**
♥Q982
♦Q65
♣A10943

8HCP
♠A102
♥K763
♦J1094
♣85

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠KQ854

♥10

♦A73

♣KJ62

11HCP
♠J973
♥AJ54
♦K82
♣Q7

| <u>Bidding</u> | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <u>N</u> | <u>E</u> | <u>S</u> | <u>W</u> |
| p | p | 1♠ | p |
| 1NT | p | 2♣ | p |
| p | All pass | | |

Deal 14.1

With 21HCP and S having 13HCP opening bid, I expect N/S to be in a part-score contract

Bidding: S opens 1♠ her longest suit, S bids 1NT showing 6-8HCPs (shouldn't bid 2♣ since <9HCP). South shows 4 clubs with her 2♣ bid. N bidding 3♣ shows good clubs support and top of the 1NT point range. S passes since she knows they have at best 21HCPs

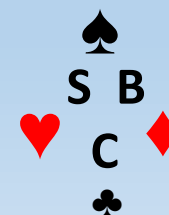
Lead: Lead ♦J (top of an honour sequence)

Card Play: S counts a max. of 5 losers, 1♠, 2♥, 2♦ and 0♣.

Take first trick in dummy with ♦A after playing ♦5 from N. Expect ♦K in E from the lead and hope ♠A in E potentially giving you a diamond stop/trick in N with ♦Q.

Take out trumps, taking second trick in N with ♣A and lead spades towards ♠KQ. W takes with ♠A and takes 2 diamonds. S should cross-ruff the hearts and spades and establish the 5th spade. Hence making 2♠ (one being the 5th spade), 1♦, and 7 club tricks (3 ruffs in N and 2 ruffs of ♥ in S)

Losers being 1♠, 1♥ and 2♦





Dealer: East
Vulnerability: N/S Vul

♠A75

♥A3 15HCP

♦KQ92

♣Q1084

10HCP

♠K63

♥Q10952

♦84

♣AJ6

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

12HCP

♠J9

♥KJ874

♦A105

♣K73

♠Q10842

♥6 3HCP

♦J763

♣952

Bidding

N

E

S

W

All Pass

1NT

p

2♥

Deal 14.2

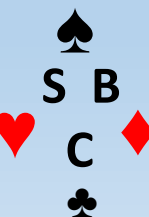
With 22HCP I expect E/W to play in a part-score contract.

Bidding: Even with a 5 card spade suit I feel E with 12HCP should bid 1NT, fortunately W with a 5 card ♥ suit would choose to bid 2♥. (*We will cover transfer bids over 1NT later, but be aware that most people will play 2♥ in E after W bids 2♦ which says to partner **transfer** to 2♥ as I have a 5 card heart suit.*)

Lead: Suggest ♦K, top of honour sequence (not comfortable with this lead BUT don't underlead an A unless you have to, and ♣Q108 looks dangerous and likely to give up a trick.

Card Play: W can count a max of 5 potential losers after the lead, 2♠, 1♥, 1♦ and 1♣.

Take ♦A and take out ♥A and draw trump.. **I expect E/W to make 9 tricks** the way the cards lie, losing only 1♠, 1♥, 1♦ and 1♣. ***Don't touch spades*** and opponents will have to lead it at some stage and give you 1 trick.





Dealer: South
Vulnerability: E/W Vul

♠K6 **14HCP**

♥QJ96

♦J1054

♣AK5

4HCP

♠A987

♥72

♦973

♣10863

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠43

♥A1083

♦AQ82

♣J92 **11HCP**

9HCP

♠QJ1052

♥K54

♦K6

♣Q74

With 25HCP I would expect N/S to be in a game.

Bidding: After bidding 1NT (12-14HCP), North rebids 2♥ showing a 4 card heart suit after South's *Stayman* (2♣). South's *limit/invitational* bid of 3♥ shows 4 hearts and ~11HCP and being top of his point range N bids 4♥ expecting 25/26HCPs.

Lead: E leads ♠Q (*top of an honour sequence*), taken by ♠A in W.

Card Play: N can count 4 potential losers 1♠, 1♥, 1♦ and 1♣ so needs find a way to avoid a loser. N will get the led on trick 2 or 3 with ♠K and leads ♥Q and finds the heart *finesse* works and trumps played out and leads ♣2 to N, then playing ♦J and finessing twice to make 4 diamond tricks..

N should make 11 tricks, 1♠, 4♥, 4♦ and 2♣ tricks.

Two successful finesses converts 4 potential losing tricks into only 2 losers (1♠ and 1♣)

Deal 14.3

| <u>Bidding</u> | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <u>N</u> | <u>E</u> | <u>S</u> | <u>W</u> |
| 1NT | p | 2♣ | p |
| 2♥ | p | 3♥ | p |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |





Dealer: South

Vulnerability: E/W Vul

♠K75 **8HCP**

♥J10974

♦A62

♣76

17HCP

♠AQJ84

♥K83

♦9

♣AK43

10HCP

♠10632

♥A65

♦KJ7

♣Q92

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠9

♥Q2

♦Q108543

♣J1085 **5HCP**

| <u>Bidding</u> | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <u>N</u> | <u>E</u> | <u>S</u> | <u>W</u> |
| p | p | p | 1♠ |
| 4♠ | All Pass | 3♠ | p |

Deal 14.4

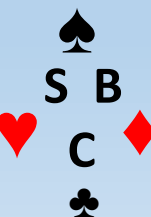
With 27HCP I would expect E/W to be in a game. **(4 spades)**

Bidding: Bidding may vary. I expect it to go 1♠ from W, and 2 or 3♠ from East. I prefer 2♠ in spite of 10HCPs as the hand is balanced (no shortage). Either way with both E and W top of the range the contract should be 4♠.

Lead: N leads ♥J (*top of an honour sequence*), taken by ♥A in E

Card Play: N can count 3 potential losers 1♠, 1♥ and 1♦. Draw trump with a finesse through ♠AQ. Unfortunately it is wrong. Then try clubs to establish if they are 3:3, which they are not so unfortunately you make only 10 tricks.

Those who play ♦9 towards the K instead of the clubs may make 11 tricks as they can discard the losing heart on ♦K





Dealer: North
Vulnerability: N/S Vul

♠KQ72

♥Q64 13HCP

♦AQ95

♣103

7HCP

♠984

♥A1052

♦K72

♣542

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| N | | |
| W | | E |
| S | | |

7HCP

♠10

♥J983

♦863

♣KQJ96

♠AJ653

♥K7

♦J104 13HCP

♣A87

Bidding

| <u>N</u> | <u>E</u> | <u>S</u> | <u>W</u> |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1NT | p | 2♣ | p |
| 2♠ | p | 4♠ | All Pass |

Deal 14.5

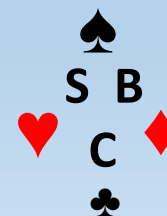
With 26HCP I would expect N/S to be in a game.

Bidding: With 13HCP and a balanced hand N bids 1NT
S asks declarer if he has a 4 card major by bidding Stayman (2♣). N shows 4 spades so south knows 4♠ is a better contract than 3NT. (Again Transfer bids over NT would have still got to 4♠ but with a different bidding sequence with N knowing S had 5 spades.

Lead: ♣K, taken by ♣A in south.

Card Play: N can count 3 potential losers, 1♥, 1♦ and 1♣
Draw trumps and note E shows out on 2nd ♠ so 3rd trump to be played leaving lead in South.
The **WORK** suit is diamonds, and being in S the ♦J is led and the **finesse** taken and continued un till the ♦K is played. Fortunately the diamonds split 3:3 so a club is discarded and **11 tricks made**.

Note: A finesse has only a 50% chance of success so only take it, if the contract isn't compromised OR you have no other choice





Dealer: East
Vulnerability: N/S Vul

♠10742

♥8 **4HCP**

♦K7

♣J98743

12HCP

♠A65

♥KJ7632

♦A98

♣10

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

15HCP

♠983

♥A10

♦Q1053

♣AKQ2

♠KQJ

♥Q954

♦J642 **9HCP**

♣65

Bidding

| <u>N</u> | <u>E</u> | <u>S</u> | <u>W</u> |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 1♣ | p | 1♥ |
| p | 1NT | p | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Deal 14.6

With 27HCP I would expect E/W to be in a game.

Bidding: Having 15HCP and a balanced hand, E is too strong for a 1NT opener, so bids 1♣ her longest suit.

W responds 2♥ which says at least a 5 card suit (may be weak). E shows 15/16HCP with 2NT and W with 12HCP and knowing partner has at least 2 hearts bids 4♥

Lead: 7♣ or 7♠, no good lead, higher card indicates this is not a good suit.

Card Play: Declarer can see **5 potential losers** 2♠, 1♥ and 2♦.

So when declarer gets lead, take ♣AKQ **and discard 2♠s to reduce losers to 3 before losing the lead in trumps**

After taking ♥AK you can now see 2 potential ♥ losers, so only chance of reducing these is to find ♦K in N and lead a small ♦ towards ♦Q. fortunately this works and E gets in and can lead the hearts through ♥Q9 to have only one hear loser and **make 10 tricks**

