

Planning out a Hand

(From Last Week)

♠ KT5
♥ AJ76
♦ 864
♣ AKQ

Two Passes to you.

What will you open???

♠ KT5
♥ AJ76
♦ 864
♣ AKQ

You have 17 HCP and are
balanced. Open 1NT!

The auction continues...

♠	KT5	LHO	Partner	RHO	Us!!!
♥	AJ76		Pass	Pass	1NT
♦	864	Pass	2♣		
♣	AKQ				

What is Partner's 2♣ bid?

♠	KT5	LHO	Partner	RHO	Us!!!
♥	AJ76		Pass	Pass	1NT
♦	864	Pass	2♣		
♣	AKQ				

Yes the 2♣ bid is STAYMAN. What is YOUR bid?

♠	KT5	LHO	Partner	RHO	Us!!!
♥	AJ76		Pass	Pass	1NT
♦	864	Pass	2♣		
♣	AKQ				

Partner is asking for a four card major. Tell them!

♠	KT5	LHO	Partner	RHO	Us!!!
♥	AJ76		Pass	Pass	1NT
♦	864	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
♣	AKQ				

The auction continues...

	LHO	Partner	RHO	Us!!!
♠ KT5		Pass	Pass	1NT
♥ AJ76	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
♦ 864	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
♣ AKQ	Pass			

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

The opening lead is the T♦.

What do you do now?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

First you must Thank your
Partner for their lovely Dummy.

Next you must figure out how
you are going to play the
contract!

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

In a Trump contract we count

LOSERS

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

We count losers from ONE hand ONLY.

We normally pick the hand with the LONGEST trump. We could do the other hand also but the hand with the LONGEST trump tends to have the FEWEST losers.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Here we have equal length in BOTH.

When that happens I look for my best (longest) SIDE SUIT.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

My best side suit is in ♠ .

So I will count losers from DUMMY.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

How many losers do we have in ♠?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

1 Loser. We will have to
lose to the Ace of ♠.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

How many losers do we have in ♥ ?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

We could lose TWO ♥ tricks.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

We could lose to the King and the
Queen of ♥

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

How many losers do we have in ♦ ?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

We could lose ONE ♦ trick.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

How many losers do we have in ♣?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

ZERO losers in ♣ ! We have two bad ♣ in our Dummy (that is where we are counting losers from) but the AKQ in our hand will win!

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

♠ 1 loser

♥ 2 losers

♦ 1 loser

♣ 0 losers

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

4 losers. Pretty good!

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

How do we get rid of losers???

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

HOW do we avoid our ♠ loser?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

We can't. We have to lose the A♠

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Let's look at the TRUMP suit...

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

 T983

How do you play the  suit for
MAXIMUM tricks?

Declarer

 AJ76

Dummy

♥ T983

The DOUBLE FINESSE

Declarer

♥ AJ76

Dummy

 T983

Declarer

 AJ76

Play the TEN from Dummy and if RHO (Right Hand Opponent) plays low you play low from your hand!

Dummy

♥ T983

Hopefully that will WIN!

Declarer

♥ AJ76

Dummy

♥ T983

But if it loses to the King or
Queen...

Declarer

♥ AJ76

Dummy

 983

You will be reduced to THIS holding.

Declarer

 AJ7

Dummy

 983

Since the TEN has lost to the Queen
(let's say) --

Declarer

 AJ7

Now we are back to a SIMPLE FINESSE.

Dummy

 983

So get back to Dummy and run the 9.

Declarer

 AJ7

Dummy

 T983

Assuming the suit splits 3-2 (the greatest likelihood) then you will have

1 loser – 25% of the time (RHO has both the King and Queen)

1 loser – 50% of the time (RHO has one of the King or Queen)

Declarer

 AJ76

2 losers – 25% of the time (LHO has both the King and Queen)

Dummy

 T983

Declarer

 AJ76

Compare that to just plunking down
the Ace of .

Unless one of the Opponents has a
singleton honour (and now you will
have to deal with a bad break!) you
will lose TWO trump tricks ALWAYS.

So we are DEFINITELY doing the Double Finesse in trump!

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: T♦

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Back to figuring losers in other suits!

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

What about ♦ losers?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

The ♦ loser will disappear magically somewhere.

WHERE?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

On the Queen of ♣

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: T♦

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

We've got this planned out.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Now let's put the plan into ACTION!

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: T♦

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Wait let's just recap and figure out what order we need to do things in!!!

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Contract: 4♥

Lead: T♦

In SUIT ORDER we need to:

Lose to the A♠ to set up winners

Double finesse in trump ♥

Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Contract: 4♥

Lead: T♦

What about REAL ORDER?

Which should we do FIRST?

Lose to the A♠ to set up winners

Double finesse in trump ♥

Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: T♦

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Maybe think about where we
need to be to do certain things.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Where do we need to be to play ♠

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Anywhere. You can start the ♠ suit from anywhere – Dummy or Declarer's Hand.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Where do we need to be to play ♥

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

You need to be in DUMMY to play ♥

And you will need to get there TWICE.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Where do we need to be to play ♦ ?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Doesn't matter.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Where do we need to be to play ♣ ?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Doesn't matter.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

So the ENTRY situation is such that we need TWO entries to do the Double Finesse in trump.

What are they?

Possibilities?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Entry by winning ♠ AFTER we
knock out the Ace

Entry with Ace ♦

Entry with King ♦

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

So which of those
entries will we use?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Or to put it better
which ONE entry do we
want to AVOID using?

...and WHY?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

You want to avoid using
the ♠ entry.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

WHY?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

We have a whole bunch of ♠ .

Chances are one of the Opponents
might be short in ♠

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Though we also want to avoid using up BOTH our ♦ winners. Now if the Opponent's get in they can cash a ♦ trick!

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

But definitely the Ace of ♦
Will be our first entry.

We will rethink as time goes
by. See what happens....

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

So BACK to our ORDER

Lose to the Ace ♠

Double finesse in trump ♥

Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

We know what entry we want to use.
We have something of a plan.

Lose a ♠
Double finesse in trump ♥
Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

What should we do FIRST?

Lose a ♠

Double finesse in trump ♥

Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Take out the trump!

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ T983

♦ AK3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ76

♦ 864

♣ AKQ

So we win the opening Ten ♦ lead with our King and then...

Play the Ten of ♥ .

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ A3

♣ 95

The 10 of ♥ lost to LHO's King ♥
and we are left with this.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 86

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ A3

♣ 95

LHO returned the 7 of ♦.

RHO follows suit.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 86

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ A3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 86

♣ AKQ

We might as well win the Ace of ♦.

If we hold up then Opponents may start trumping ♦!

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

When we win the Ace of ♦ we come down to this situation:

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Now what?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Now we have to think again.

If we try the ♥ finesse and it LOSES to the Queen then the Opponents will take their winning ♦ .

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Should we throw away our losing ♦
BEFORE we take out any more trump?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

If we have to play three rounds of ♣
BEFORE we take out trump then one
Opponent might have only a doubleton.

They would trump our ♣.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

What are the Odds that RHO has the Queen of ♥?

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Chances are 75% RHO has the Queen.

LHO only will have both the King and Queen 25% of the time.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Plus LHO started by leading their Ten of
and then played the 7 of ♦ .

I think LHO started with two ♦ .

So even if the finesse loses LHO will not
have a ♦ to win!

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 983

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ7

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

So I am not taking the chance someone will trump the ♣.

I will play the 9 of ♥ from Dummy and let it ride!

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 83

♦ 3

♣ 95

The 9 of ♥ WINS!

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 83

♦ 3

♣ 95

Now what?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 83

♦ 3

♣ 95

Yes. Take out the last trump.

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ AJ

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 8

♦ 3

♣ 95

NOW what? Are we out of the woods?

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ J

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 8

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ J

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Not yet. You still have to knock out the Ace of ♠ and pitch your ♦ loser.

But the trump are all out at least.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 8

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ J

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

So what do you do first?

Knock out the Ace of ♠

OR

Pitch your ♦ loser on the ♣.

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 8

♦ 3

♣ 95

Pitch your ♦ loser!

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ J

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 8

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ J

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

If you knock out the Ace of ♠ the
Opponent winning the trick might be
able to play their winning ♦ !

Ditch that first!

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 8

♦ 3

♣ 95

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ J

♦ 8

♣ AKQ

So play the AKQ of ♣ from your hand
throwing away your losing ♦ from Dummy

Dummy

♠ QJ84

♥ 8

♦

♣

Declarer's Hand

♠ KT5

♥ J

♦ 8

♣

NOW you can play ♠ until they win their Ace.


You should take the rest of the tricks!

Here are the FOUR hands:

	Declarer	
	♠ QJ84	
	♥ T983	
	♦ AK3	
	♣ 95	
		Dummy
		♠ KT5
		♥ AJ76
		♦ 864
		♣ AKQ
RHO		LHO
♠ A96		♠ 732
♥ K5		♥ Q42
♦ T7		♦ QJ952
♣ J76432		♣ T8

The principle of “Restricted Choice” says that when one Opponent plays a card they are less likely to hold the other card of equal value.

So according to “Restricted Choice” when LHO won their King of trump it meant they didn’t have the Queen. So we were safe to finesse again.

If we had tried to throw away our  loser first
RHO would have trumped!

Note that again the DOUBLE FINESSE saved us from quite a few losers! We would have gone down big time without it!

GOOD LUCK TONIGHT!!!

HAVE FUN!!!

