

# PLANNING THE PLAY OF A BRIDGE HAND

## 6

### POINTS TO REMEMBER – PLANNING WHEN TO DRAW TRUMPS

- The general rule is: Draw trumps immediately unless there is a good reason not to.
- When you are planning to ruff a loser or two in the dummy, you may have to delay drawing trumps until after taking the ruffs.
- Sometimes the need to take a discard, or to establish a suit that will provide a discard, is more pressing than the need to draw trumps.

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# QUESTIONS

## Chapter 6: Planning when to draw trumps

**A.**

♠	J 10 9 5
♥	A 7 2
♦	K Q 9 7
♣	9 6
♥Q led	<input style="width: 80px; height: 15px;" type="text"/>
♠	A Q 7 6 3
♥	8 6 5
♦	A 4
♣	K Q 3

Expressing your plan as concisely as you can, how will you play 4♠?

**B.**

♠	A
♥	Q J 10 6
♦	Q 10 5 2
♣	10 7 6 2
♠2 led	<input style="width: 80px; height: 15px;" type="text"/>
♠	K Q J 10 9 7 6
♥	A 9 8 4
♦	—
♣	Q 5

West leads the ♠2 against 4♠. How will you plan the play?

**C.**

♠	K 6 3 2
♥	A 4 2
♦	8 7 4 3
♣	6 5
♠Q led	<input style="width: 80px; height: 15px;" type="text"/>
♠	A 4
♥	K Q J 10 8 7
♦	A 6
♣	J 8 3

West leads the ♠Q against your contract of 4♥. What is your plan?



## ANSWERS

## Chapter 6: Planning when to draw trumps

- A.** You have four potential losers, including one in trumps. It is much too dangerous to win the heart lead and run the ♠J. If the trump finesse loses, the defenders will cash three more winners in the side suits to beat the contract. Instead, you must attempt to discard a heart loser on the diamond suit. Play the ♦A, ♦K and ♦Q, throwing a heart. If no one ruffs, you can then run the ♠J, seeking an overtrick. If someone does happen to ruff the third diamond winner, you can eventually re-enter dummy by ruffing the third round of clubs to take a trump finesse.

**PLAN: I will win with the ♥A and play three top diamonds, discarding a heart loser.**

- B.** You have one possible loser in hearts and two in clubs. That is a total of only three losers — exactly what you need to make a contract of 4♠! Nevertheless, a careless player might go down on such a contract. Suppose you win with the bare ♠A and decide to take advantage of being in dummy by running the ♥Q. West may win with the ♥K and give East a heart ruff. The defenders may then take two club winners, followed by another heart ruff. Down two!

You can avoid any such disaster by drawing trumps. At Trick 2 you reach your hand by ruffing a diamond and draw the remaining trumps. There is no entry to dummy for a heart finesse, but this does not matter since you can afford a heart loser. You play ace and another heart, setting up the suit, and the contract is yours.

**PLAN: I will win the trump lead, reach my hand with a diamond ruff and draw the remaining trumps. I will then establish the heart suit.**

- C.** You must aim to ruff the third round of clubs in dummy. Suppose you make the mistake of drawing a round of trumps after winning the spade lead. You are likely to go down when trumps are 3-1! When you subsequently surrender two club tricks, the defender with the three trumps will have a chance to play a second and third round of trumps. How will you score a club ruff then?

Instead you should win the spade lead and give up a round of clubs. The defenders are welcome to win and switch to trumps. You will win the first round of trumps and give up another club. If the defenders play another trump, you will still have a trump left in dummy. You can ruff your remaining club with the ♥A and then return to the South hand to draw the last trump.

**PLAN: I will win the spade lead and give up two rounds of clubs before drawing any trumps, eventually ruffing the third club with the ♥A.**



# QUESTIONS

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D.

♥J led

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

West leads the ♥J against 4♠. How will you plan the play?

E.

♦J led

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

What is your plan for 6♥ when West leads the ♦J?

F.

♣K led

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

How will you play 5♦ when West leads the ♣K?



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## ANSWERS

- D.** You have a total of four potential side-suit losers and must aim to discard the club loser on dummy's diamonds. You will not be able to draw any trumps before setting up the discard because the ♠A is the only entry to dummy.

Play low from dummy at Trick 1. East cannot rise with the ♥A or you would have two heart winners and a club discard. You win with the ♥K and immediately lead a diamond to the queen. When East wins and plays a club, you win with the ace and play another diamond. It makes no difference which defender wins the second round of diamonds. You will win the club continuation and draw two rounds of trumps with the king and ace. You will then discard the ♣3 on an established diamond winner in dummy. Later you will draw the outstanding trump(s) and claim your contract.

**PLAN: I will win with the ♥K and lead a diamond. Eventually I can set up a diamond winner in dummy and reach it with the ♠A to discard my club loser.**

- E.** You must hope that trumps break 3-2, which will allow you to escape for one trump loser. To avoid losing a diamond trick too, you will have to set up dummy's club suit for a discard. You win the diamond lead and cannot afford to draw two rounds of trumps immediately because you need to use dummy's ♥A as an entry. Instead, you cross to the ♣A and ruff a club in your hand. You continue with the king and ace of trumps, before ruffing another club. If the clubs break 4-3, as well as the trumps breaking 3-2, you will make the contract. You cross to the ♠Q and ruff yet another club. The ♠A will serve as an entry to reach the thirteenth club, on which you will discard your diamond loser. Your only loser will be in the trump suit.

**PLAN: I will win the diamond lead and try to set up the clubs, to discard a diamond. Since I need the ♥A as an entry, I must take one club ruff before playing the king and ace of trumps.**

- F.** Suppose your first move, after winning with the ♣A, is to play a trump. East may win and switch to a heart. You will then go down when West holds both the major-suit kings. Instead, you should set up some discards from dummy by running the ♠J at Trick 2. If this loses to West's ♠K, he cannot attack hearts from his side of the table. You will ruff the next club and play a trump. If East wins with the ♦A and switches to a heart, you can rise with the ♥A, draw trumps, and discard two hearts from dummy on the third and fourth rounds of spades.

If instead East covers the ♠J with the ♠K, you will win with the ♠A and play trumps. You can then discard one heart on the third round of spades.

**PLAN: I will win with the ♣A and run the ♠J, setting up two discards for dummy's heart losers if the finesse loses.**

