

New Year's Resolutions

We will NOT robotically draw trump

Determining whether to draw trump is the key decision in a suit contract. This flows from our plan (count losers → figure out what to do about losers → Draw trump?). If you find you run out of trumps a lot, you might not be counting losers properly. A generally good thought is: if you have a lot of losers, you probably don't want to draw trump quickly. If you have a lot of winners, draw trump.

I recommend looking at the deals after watching the webinar or using them to follow along. The deals are below.

Deal 1

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	2NT
Pass		Pass	Pass

W West	N North	E East	S South
♠ 1065	♠ A43	♠ J7	♠ KQ982
♥ QJ109	♥ A864	♥ 32	♥ K75
♦ 982	♦ A765	♦ KQJ10	♦ 43
♣ K52	♣ J3	♣ Q10974	♣ A86

4♠ South | NS 0 EW 0

On Deal 1, you want to be sure to count two club losers. If you cheat by looking at shortness in both hands when counting losers, you may not realize how many losers you actually have. This is the cause of the “magically appearing loser”.

Deal 2

W West	N North	E East	S South
♠ J105	♠ Q43	♠ 6	♠ AK9872
♥ K1043	♥ 9	♥ AJ852	♥ Q76
♦ J1098	♦ K754	♦ 62	♦ AQ3
♣ 76	♣ KQJ109	♣ A8542	♣ 3

4♠ South | NS 0 EW 0

For deal 2, we need to envision that if we draw all of the trumps before our clubs are good, we'll lose a bunch of hearts. Instead, you can draw two rounds of trump and then play a club. Now the opponents can cash at most one heart trick.

Deal 3

W West	N North	E East
♠ J5 ♥ AQ107 ♦ 862 ♣ J1098	♠ A7632 ♥ J2 ♦ KJ10 ♣ 765	♠ Q108 ♥ K8 ♦ 97543 ♣ K42
	S South	
	♠ K94 ♥ 96543 ♦ AQ ♣ AQ3	

In this deal, you need to be flexible in counting losers. Count from the dummy (long trump hand). Make sure you untangle yourself by playing the ♣A before playing diamonds.

Deal 4

W West	N North	E East	S South
♠ 643 ♥ AK743 ♦ KQ2 ♣ 76	♠ AK98 ♥ 8 ♦ J1086 ♣ KQ43	♠ 75 ♥ J10962 ♦ 75 ♣ J1098	1♦ Pass Pass
	S South		4♠ South NS 0 EW 0
	♠ QJ102 ♥ Q5 ♦ A943 ♣ A52		

This is a type of deal that comes up often. You may not be worried about hearts after you ruff one in dummy, but drawing all of the trumps is a mistake. Now the opponents can "tap" you by playing another heart. Keeping a spade in dummy prevents this.

Deal 5b

W West	N North	E East	S South
♠ Q92 ♥ KQJ10 ♦ J52 ♣ 542	♠ K43 ♥ 987 ♦ A8 ♣ AQ1098	♠ J10 ♥ 652 ♦ KQ10943 ♣ 76	3♦ Pass
	S South		4♠ South NS 0 EW 0
	♠ A8765 ♥ A43 ♦ 76 ♣ KJ3		

On this deal, we play with both the ♥ K lead and also a ♦ lead (EW hands changing around a bit). On a diamond lead, you want to draw three rounds of trump so that you can throw away all of your losers on the clubs. On a heart lead, you only draw two rounds of trump as you have a late entry.