

Micro Bridge Lesson 39

Dummy Reversals

FAQ: What is a dummy reversal?

ANS: Usually dummy has fewer trumps than declarer. If declarer takes sufficient ruffs in hand, dummy will have more trumps than declarer. When this occurs, the roles of dummy and declarer have reversed and dummy will be used to draw the enemy trumps.

Here is a typical trump layout:-

Dummy: ♠KQ2
 Declarer: ♠A6543

In the usual course of events, declarer will play small to the King and Queen then back to the Ace to draw the enemy trumps. Declarer will have two leftover trumps which can be used to stop the enemy running a suit. Ho Hum. Let's count the number of trump tricks:-

SK + SQ + SA + 2 dec ruffs = 5 tricks.

You will be aware that ruffs in the *short* hand are always desirable and generate extra tricks. If we can get a ruff with S2 above, that will be an extra trick. A ruff with SK or SQ are no good since a SJ will be promoted to a trick for the enemy.

dummy ruff + SK + SQ + SA + 2 dec ruffs = 6 tricks

Now watch what happens if you get *three* ruffs in your own (declarer) hand instead. The remaining trumps are:-

Dummy: ♠KQ2
 Declarer: ♠A6

Now, when you draw the enemy trumps, you will be able to discard a loser from your hand on dummy's third trump!

SA + SK + SQ + 3 dec ruffs = 6 tricks

Dummy reversals are missed by a lot of players at club level. When you seize the chance, you will be pleasantly surprised by the travelling score card. As you gain more experience, you will realize that they come around every month. If you haven't played one for a few months, you probably have to concede that you've missed some chances

♠A2		
♥AQT2		
♦KT87		
♣AQJ		
♠543		♠987
♥6543		♥87
♦AQ32		♦J54
♣43		♣K7652
	♠KQJT6	
	♥KJ9	
	♦96	
	♣T98	

Contract 6H after DA lead and then C4.

Nightmare contract but let's make it! The key is to focus on where South's losers can be parked. The only losers are the clubs. Simply win CA and ruff a low diamond. Now, you have 4 trumps in dummy and two in hand. The losing clubs can go on the 3rd and 4th hearts.

One clue to a dummy reversal is\may be when you need to take an early ruff in hand.

	♠KT	
	♥K4	
	♦AJ872	
	♣AK82	
♠865		♠9742
♥Q652		♥98
♦K9543		♦QT6
♣T		♣9643
	♠AQJ3	
	♥AJT73	
	♦-	
	♣QJ75	

Contract 7C by South. Opening Lead: CT
 Declarer can count 4S + 2H + 1D + 4C = 11 top tricks
 Two more tricks need to be generated. Diamond ruffs. Win the C lead with CJ. Cash CQ for that bad news. You want to ruff diamonds with your small trumps. Now, Hx to HK, ruff Dx. Sx to ST, ruff Dx. Sx to SK and draw trumps, pitching hearts from hand. Notice that the dummy reversal strategy is robust enough to cope with the bad trump break.

	♠JT9	
	♥J52	
	♦A642	
	♣Q87	
♠643		♠82
♥KQ84		♥AT7
♦KJT8		♦Q975
♣64		♣JT95
	♠AKQ75	
	♥963	
	♦3	
	♣AK32	

South plays 4S. The defence cash 3H and shift to Dx. If declarer simply draws trumps, he is relying on a 3-3 club break for his contract. However, if he can ruff the three losing diamonds, the 4th club will disappear on dummy's 3rd spade. This line is successful when trumps are 3-2, a much better chance. Win DA and ruff Dx high. Sx to S9 and ruff another Dx high. Sx to ST and ruff the final Dx. Now, enter dummy with CQ, draw the final trump pitching the losing club from hand. Now, CA and CK.

	♠AKJ	
	♥T2	
	♦AJ873	
	♣A98	
♠32		♠T94
♥754		♥QJ93
♦Q954		♦KT6
♣QJT2		♣654
	♠Q8765	
	♥AK86	
	♦2	
	♣K73	

Contract 6S. Club loser and 2 hearts. Can't ruff hearts or trump loser appears. Ruff 3 diamonds.