

NVBA Intermediate/Novice Lecture

November 21, 2013

Declarer Play – Developing Tricks – setting up a long suit

Kevin O'Brien

Okay, you are declarer. You count your losers -- perhaps too many. But there is a long suit you may be able to set up

- 1) Can you do this if you draw trumps first?
- 2) Can you do this before the defense cashes enough tricks to set you?
- 3) Do you have enough entries to complete the plan?

Let's look at two hands from *How to Play a Bridge Hand*, by William S. Root.

♠ 7	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 6 5 4
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A K Q 10 2	♥ J 5										
♦ A K Q 6 4	♦ 9 2										
♣ 9 5	♣ Q 10 8 7 3										

4 ♥ by West

One Spade loser, two Club losers, five Heart winners, five Diamond winners -- maybe. If Diamonds don't split 3-3, you have a Diamond loser. Plan: take ♦ A, ♦ K, then ruff ♦ 4 with ♥ J in dummy. Return to hand with ♥ 3 to ♥ A, draw trumps. If neither red suit splits worse than 4-2, you win five Trump tricks, 4 ♦ tricks, and the ♦ ruff in Dummy.

Another hand:

♠ A 5 4 3										
♥ 7										
♦ 9 3										
♣ A Q 8 7 4 2										
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>			N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
♠ K Q J 10										
♥ A K 10 8 5 2										
♦ A										
♣ 6 3										

6 ♠ by South

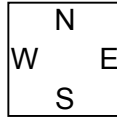
Lead: ♣ 9

Suspect a singleton lead. Count losers: one Club loser, four Heart losers. Plan to set up the ♥ suit. Win ♣ A, ♥ 7 to ♥ A, ruff ♥ 2 with ♠ 3, ♠ 4 to ♠ K, ruff ♥ 5 with ♠ A, ♠ 5 to ♠ Q, draw remaining Trumps, and if ♥ split no worse than 5-2 and ♠ no worse than 4-1, you have your twelve tricks.

North Deals
None Vul

Root Quiz hand

♠ J 8
♥ A 4 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q 10 9 6 5 3



♠ A 4
♥ K Q J 10 9
♦ A 8 7 4 2
♣ A

6 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ K

E-W passed throughout the auction.

1. count your losers. ♠ _____ ♥ _____ ♦ _____ ♣ _____

2: how do you get rid of the second, etc. losers?

a. Can you set up Dummy's ♣ suit?

b. If not, then what?

3. how are the E-W cards likely to split? ♠ ___ - ___ ♥ ___ - ___ ♦ ___ - ___ ♣ ___ - ___

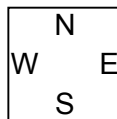
4. What's the plan?

----- fold here ----- fold here -----

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8
♥ A 4 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q 10 9 6 5 3

♠ K Q 7 6
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 10 9 5
♣ 8 4 2



♠ 10 9 5 3 2
♥ 8 6 5
♦ J 3
♣ K J 7

♠ A 4
♥ K Q J 10 9
♦ A 8 7 4 2
♣ A

6 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ K

Win first trick with ♠A. Trick 2: ♦K Trick 3: ♦A. Trick 4: low ♦ from hand, pitch losing ♠ from Dummy. Now when you regain the lead you can ruff the low ♠ from your hand in Dummy, and a low ♦ in Dummy with the ♥A. The fifth ♦ sets up.