



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2014-15



Week 5 Suit Contract Play



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Week 5 Suit Contract Play

Quite a while ago now, we looked at No Trump Contract Play.

It seems time to now look at Suit Contract Play. Most (all?) of this will be from the viewpoint of Declarer.

In general, the defenders should work out Declarer's strategy and try to thwart it. For example if Declarer is trying to save his trumps (maybe for some cross-trumping), it is worth drawing them yourself.



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When dummy is laid down, Declarer must answer 4 questions:

- 1) How many losers do I have?
- 2) How many points are there between myself and dummy?
- 3) Have the opponents bid – and what?
- 4) What do I think about the opening lead?



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How many losers do I have?

You are counting the losers in Declarer's hand using support from Dummy.

It refers to the number of tricks to be lost having drawn trumps.

Count finesses as losers.

*Ignore the level of the contract – you want to make as many tricks as you can regardless of the bid. If you can make **12 tricks** with spades as trumps then make 12 tricks, whether that is 1S+5, 4S+2 or 6S✓.*

*Ignore the level of the contract – you want to make as many tricks as you can regardless of the bid, even if you end up going down. If you can only make **8 tricks** with spades as trumps then make 8 tricks, whether that is 1S+1, 4S-2 or 6S-4.*



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Playing in 4S

Dummy:

♠ K 7 4

♥ K J 6

♦ A J T 8

♣ 7 6 3

Declarer:

♠ A Q J 6 3

♥ A Q 8

♦ K Q

♣ T 4 2

No losers

No losers

No losers

3 losers

You have few enough losers to make your contract. You can draw trumps immediately. You have $5+3 = 8$. They have 5 probably split $3+2$, but perhaps $4+1$.

But you could try to make an extra trick with a club.



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Ways of making extra tricks:

- 1) Trumping losers in dummy
(or rather the shorter trump suit hand).
- 2) Throw away losers on dummy's long suit.
- 3) Finessing or otherwise being helped by opponents.



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Trumping losers in dummy

Declarer: Dummy:
♠ A Q J 6 3 ♠ K 7 4

You are expecting to make all 5 of declarer's trump tricks:

A4 = 1 3K = 2 Q7 = 3 J- = 4 6- = 5

You needed to use the K to make the 3 good, but the 4 and the 7 were surplus to requirements.

So if you are in a situation where dummy is void in a suit, you can lead/play a losing card and win the trick with a "surplus" trump in dummy.



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Playing in 4S **Trumping losers in dummy**

Dummy:

♠ K 8 7 2

♥ A Q 5

♦ J 9 7 4 3

♣ 4

Declarer:

♠ A Q J 5 4

♥ K 6 4

♦ Q 2

♣ A 6 2

No losers

No losers

2 losers

2 losers

You have $5+4 = 9$ trumps, leaving 4 out. They can definitely be drawn with A K Q J. You can see 4 losers, one too many for a 4S contract.

But you could make an extra trick with a club.

Draw some trumps, leaving at least 1 trump in dummy.

Win A♣, voiding dummy of ♣.

Lead a low club from hand & trump with dummy.

Extra trick made.



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Throw away losers on Dummy's long suit.

Dummy:	Declarer:	<i>Again a 4S contract</i>
♠ K 8 7	♠ A Q J 9 5 2	No losers
♥ K Q J 9 5	♥ A	No losers
♦ 5 3	♦ A 6 2	2 losers
♣ 8 5 2	♣ 9 4 3	3 losers

You have $6+3 = 9$ trumps, leaving 4 out. They can definitely be drawn with A K Q J. You can see 5 losers, two too many for a 4S contract.

They lead clubs and make the first 3 tricks.

Once you get the lead (maybe A♦) discard the two losing diamonds 6♦ & 2♦ on hearts.

Play AQ♠, A♥, cross to K♠, Win KQ♥ discarding two losing diamonds, then win declarer's trumps.



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Finessing or otherwise being helped by opponents

Finessing should be avoided when there is an alternative as it is 50/50 whether it will work – you prefer 100/0 in favour of working.

Sometimes you can work out where key cards are – eg in LHO because they overcalled whilst RHO didn't.

Use finesses when other techniques have failed – or when you have worked out key card locations and it is favourable. Avoid if you can.

There are other techniques – such as endplays and squeezes – that involved the opponents to play a card that helps you. *Another week.*



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The other questions related to identifying card positions:

- 2) How many points are there between myself and dummy?
- 3) Have the opponents bid – and what?
- 4) What do I think about the opening lead?

With (2) workout exactly how many points the opponents have - and ideally count down what they have left as they play.



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Week 5 Play

Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables.

This week I do not plan to ask you to move, in future weeks we shall.

NS have the pair number of their table.

EW have the pair number of their table plus 6.

When you have played a hand, pass it to the next numbered table in sequence. The highest numbered table passes to table 1.

And one last thing – **as part of the learning process** – I would like the partner of whoever has just bid to take whatever action is **standardly required** (announcing 1NT to be 12-14 points, ALERTing a conventional bid, ...) – **AND ALSO** to give a brief **description** to the other three players on what the bid means.

Any questions?

Tea & coffee.

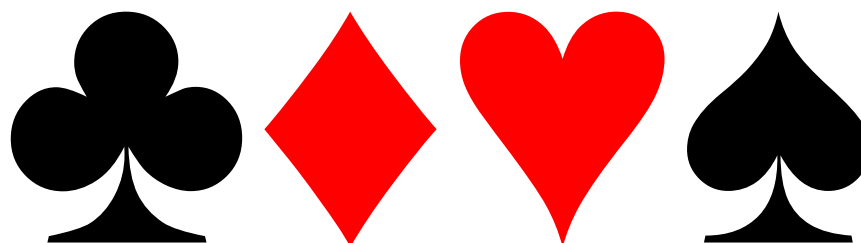
PLAY



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Week 5 Suit Contract Play



The end

(Set hand references follow.)



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Week 5 Set Hands

Set hands

They are either from the coursebook RWPB, or Andrew Robson's Responder and Fourth Suit Forcing. Some are partial deals where I have shuffled and dealt the remaining 26 cards randomly.

Boards 1 & 9 were not played.

Book results in blue. U3A group results in red.

The rotation of the set hand is indicated by the position of the A♠.



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Week 5 Set Hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.	
2	E	N/S	RWPBp173	4S+1; 4S+1; 4S+1; 4S-1.	A♠=E
3	S	E/W	RWPBp174a	4S+1; 4S+1; 4S.	A♠=N
4	W	All	RWPBp175	4S=; 4S-1; 4S=.	A♠=S
5	N	N/S	RWPBp174b	4S=; 3S-1; 4S-2.	A♠=W
6	E	E/W	R&4SF#4	4H=; 4H-1; 3H=.	A♠=S
7	S	All	R&4SF#1	4H=; 4H-1; 4H-2.	A♠=S
8	W	None	R&4SF#6	4H=; 3H+1.	A♠=S