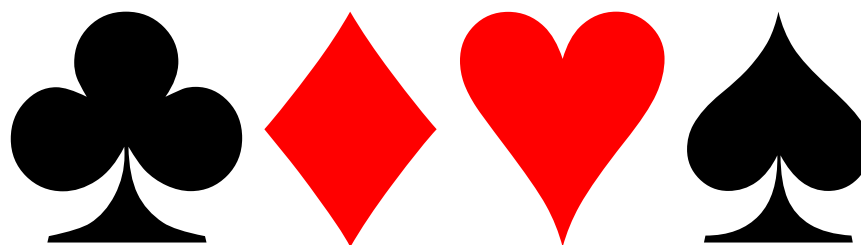




U3A Intermediate Bridge 2014-15



Week 6 Declarer Play



Steve Bailey



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Last year, we looked at No Trump Contract Play. Last week at Suit Contract Play.

In both cases, the bidding concludes, an opening lead is made, dummy's hand goes down on the table, **the bidding cards are then returned to the bidding box** and **declarer pauses and makes a plan**.

What sort of a plan depends upon whether the contract is suited or No Trumps...



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Week 6 Declarer Play

No Trumps Plan

Evaluate “top tricks”

Determine how many extra tricks must be made.

Decide how to make them

By Force

If you have QJT9, lose 2 to AK, win 2.

By Length

If you have L5suit, they have L4suit,
you win 1 extra when they are voided

By Position

Finesse etc. Better if you KNOW where the
missing card is.

Make sure that both hands retain enough entries for the plan to work.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Suited Plan

Evaluate declarer's losers, using dummy's winners and assuming trumps are drawn.

Determine how many losers must be got rid of.

Decide how to get rid of them

Void dummy then trump losers with dummy's spare trumps.

Void declarer and discard losers on dummy's long suit.

Make opponents help you

To be covered later

Sometimes you can draw trumps immediately. Sometimes you need them for your plan. Be careful.

Make sure that both hands retain enough entries for the plan to work.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Too many of you immediately start play and don't analyse the situation or make a plan...

With last week's hands, boards 5 & 7 seemed to get the poorest results, so lets look at them, along with a No Trump deals.

On the following pages, I have rotated the hands so that declarer is at the bottom, dummy at the top.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 5

♠ contract

♠ K 8 7 ♥ K Q J 9 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 8 5 2

♠ A Q J 9 5 2 ♥ A ♦ A 6 2 ♣ 9 4 3

Only declarer and dummy bid, the final contract was in ♠. I am not saying how many, since you want to make as many tricks as you can.

Now evaluate the hands.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 5

♠ contract

♠ K 8 7 ♥ K Q J 9 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 8 5 2

9 HCP

♠ A Q J 9 5 2 ♥ A ♦ A 6 2 ♣ 9 4 3

15 HCP

24 HCP in total – so the opponents have 16 HCP. In fact, they have

♠ - ♥ - ♦ K Q J ♣ A K Q J.

I've marked winners (or winning pairs) in blue. Losers in purple.

'We' have 9 trumps, they have 4 trumps. Our A K Q J can draw all 4 of the opponent's trumps, even if distributed 4-0. So we can count all our trumps as winners.

Now we make a plan to 'get rid of' some losers. What plan?



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 5

♠ contract

Opening lead: ♣K

♠ K 8 7 ♥ K Q J 9 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 8 5 2

9 HCP

♠ A Q J 9 5 2 ♥ A ♦ A 6 2 ♣ 9 4 3

15 HCP

I've added the opening lead at the top.

What plan?

(a) We have two spare trumps: Dummy's 8 and 7. Can we trump anything?

(b) We have (at least) three spare winners in dummy: ♥ K Q J (the 5 may also be a length winner...). How could we use these?



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 5

♠ contract

Opening lead: ♣K

♠ K 8 7 ♥ K Q J 9 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ ~~8 5 2~~

9 HCP

♠ A Q J 9 5 2 ♥ A ♦ A 6 2 ♣ ~~9 4 3~~

15 HCP

They have found our club weakness straight away. They are almost bound to win the first three club tricks before we get a chance to do anything.

Before detailing the plan, I am 'mentally' removing 3 club tricks.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 5

♠ contract

Opening lead: ♣K

♠ K 8 7 ♥ K Q J 9 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ ~~8 5 2~~

9 HCP

♠ A Q J 9 5 2 ♥ A ♦ A 6 2 ♣ ~~9 4 3~~

15 HCP

The ♦ has one more in declarer, is this useful?

Plan: Get lead, Draw trumps, Win ♥A, Go to Dummy (*Ah, a problem, no entry, save the ♠K for this*), Win ♥KQ discarding 2 losers ♦62.

This makes 10 tricks or a contract of 4♠=.

Last week we got 3♠-1 and 4♠-2, both very poor results.

I imagine you drew trumps and couldn't get back to dummy to make the ♥KQ.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 5

♠ contract

Opening lead: ♣K

♠ K 8 7 ♥ K Q J 9 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ ~~8 5 2~~

9 HCP

♠ A Q J 9 5 2 ♥ A ♦ A 6 2 ♣ ~~9 4 3~~

15 HCP

And finally with this deal – what can go wrong?

The weak point is the use of the ♠K to get into dummy. If the trumps are split 4-0 then you can only draw two before having to use the K. That means that you play the hearts with one trump out.

And if the trump-holder also has a shortage in hearts, one of ♥KQ could be trumped.

Cross your fingers – there is nothing you can do about it.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 7

♥ contract

♠ J 2 ♥ K 6 4 2 ♦ A J ♣ J 8 7 5 2

♠ A K 7 4 3 ♥ A Q J 5 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 6 3

Only declarer and dummy bid, the final contract was in ♥. I am not saying how many, since you want to make as many tricks as you can.

Now evaluate the hands.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 7

♥ contract

♠ J 2 ♥ K 6 4 2 ♦ A J ♣ J 8 7 5 2

10 HCP

♠ A K 7 4 3 ♥ A Q J 5 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 6 3

14 HCP

24 HCP in total – so the opponents have 16 HCP. In fact, they have ♠ Q ♥ - ♦ K Q ♣ A K Q.

I've marked winners (or winning pairs) in blue. Losers in purple.

'We' have 8 trumps, they have 5 trumps. Our A K Q J will draw all of the opponent's trumps if distributed 3-2 or 4-1. Only 5-0 is a problem.

Now we make a plan to 'get rid of' some losers. What plan?



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 7

♥ contract

Opening lead: ♦10 (...unbid suit)

♠ J 2 ♥ K 6 4 2 ♦ A J ♣ J 8 7 5 2

10 HCP

♠ A K 7 4 3 ♥ A Q J 5 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 6 3

14 HCP

There are presently 6 losers: 3♠, 0♥, 1♦ & 2♣.

I've added the opening lead at the top.

What plan?

(a) We have three spare trumps: Dummy's 6, 4 & 2. Can we trump anything?

(b) We have no spare winners in dummy. Not an option.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

Board 7

♥ contract

Opening lead: ♦10 (...unbid suit)

♠ J 2 ♥ K 6 4 2 ♦ A J ♣ J 8 7 5 2

10 HCP

♠ A K 7 4 3 ♥ A Q J 5 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 6 3

14 HCP

Plan: Get lead, Void dummy of ♠. Lead losing ♠ and return to hand to repeat. *(Ah, a problem, how do we get back to declarer's hand?)*

Implementation:

- ♦10 → ♦A. ①
- ♠A → ♠2; ♠K → ♠J. ②③
- Trump a ♠: ♠3 → ♥2. ④
- Return to hand & draw some trumps: ♥4 → ♥J. ⑤
- Trump a ♠: ♠4 → ♥6. ⑥
- Return to hand overtaking K
- ♥K → ♥A. Draw 2 trumps. ⑦
- Draw last trump ♥Q (♥10). ⑧
- Win ♥5. ⑨
- Win ♠7. ⑩
- Lose ♦8 ♣63 ①②③



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Week 6 Declarer Play

No Trumps

3NT contract

♠ K J T 4 ♥ K 8 4 3 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 6 2

♠ Q 3 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ A J ♣ A K J 9 4 3

Now evaluate the hands.



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Week 6 Declarer Play

No Trumps

3NT contract

♠ K J T 4 ♥ K 8 4 3 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 6 2

♠ Q 3 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ A J ♣ A K J 9 4 3

I've marked **top tricks** in blue.

You have 5 top tricks. You have to find 4 extra.

What is your plan?



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Week 6 Declarer Play

No Trumps

3NT contract

♠ K J T 4 ♥ K 8 4 3 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 6 2

♠ Q 3 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ A J ♣ A K J 9 4 3

You have 5 top tricks. You have to find 4 extra.

- With 8♣, they have 5. If split 3-2 or 4-1 with the queen in the shorter hand, you could make 4 extra here. With a 5-0 split you won't manage it. The ♣J may be finesseable.
- You have ♠ K Q J T. Once ♠A is drawn there are 3 winners here.
- You may be lucky and finesse to make ♦J a winner. (*Or they may lead it for you...*)



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Week 6 Declarer Play

No Trumps

3NT contract

♠ K J T 4 ♥ K 8 4 3 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 6 2

♠ Q 3 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ A J ♣ A K J 9 4 3

What plan you choose depends upon their lead.

In this example hand, they bid ♦ and so that is the suit they will lead.

It turns out that if they lead “Fourth highest” ♦4, your ♦J makes at trick one, so with the 3 spades, you make 3NT✓.

But if they lead top of a “sequence of two” ♦K, ♦J doesn’t make and you have to go with the long clubs which (here) break 4-1, Qxxx-x, so 3NT-1. (Actually very broken sequence: ♦ K Q 9 x x)

Some of these techniques aren’t always going to work. But they work often enough to be worth using.



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Week 6 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.

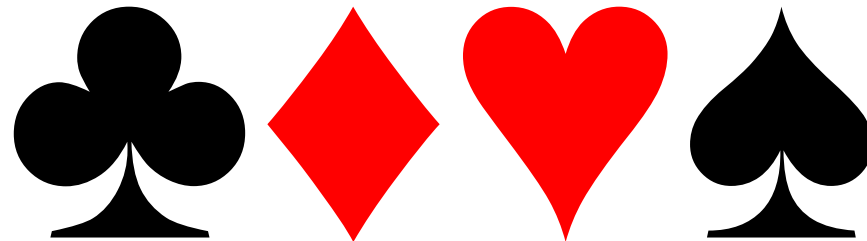
PLAY



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Week 6 Declarer Play



The end

(Set hand scores in related spreadsheet.)