

BON JOUR

J54 1 Club
 A654 3 Hearts
 84 Pass
 AKQ7

72	Pass		AKQ63	
K98	Pass		3	1 Spade
K7653	Pass		J1092	Pass
964			853	Pass

1098 DEALER - Pass
 QJ1072 2 Hearts
 AQ 4 Hearts
 J102

South isn't strong enough to open, but is strong enough to accept North's invitational raise. Note: North doesn't count the J of spades as a point. Unsupported jacks in suits bid by the opponents are usually worthless unless partner bids notrump. OPENING LEAD – 7 of spades, after East cashes 3 spades, West must find a discard. As West, before discarding, ask yourself which suit you want partner to lead. WHAT DO YOU PLAY?

J
 AKQ32 2 Hearts
 9854 6 NT
 AQ4

94	Pass		10853	
98	Pass		J1075	Pass
AQ3	Pass		762	Pass
J109732			86	

AKQ762
 63 DEALER- 1 Spade
 KJ10 3 NT
 K5 Pass

South, with stoppers in the unbid suits, decides 3NT is a more descriptive rebid than 3 spades. North clearly has a raise to 6NT facing what is likely to be 17-18 high card points. The near solid six-card spade suit makes up for the lack of HCP. OPENING LEAD – J of clubs. Count your tricks. Six spades, at least 3 hearts and 3 clubs for a total of 12. Any problems? Yes, spades are blocked, A good declarer (you) notices blocked suits

DRAWING TRUMPS – TO DRAW OR NOT TO DRAW

For play at a suit contract always:

1. Think at Trick 1
2. Count losers (in the long trump hand)
3. Decide what will happen if you draw trump

The average player's first instinct is to draw trump as soon as possible, trying to insure that the opponents will never be able to ruff. This approach is a mistake! Declarer must often save trumps either for his own ruffing or transportation purposes, or to elect to first develop a side suit for discards. A good declarer starts drawing trump on less than half the deals he plays.

Reasons for postponing trump drawing:

- A. Need to ruff losers in the dummy
- B. Need to establish a discard
- C. Need trumps for ruffing
- D. Need trumps for entries
- E. Need trump in dummy for control

When playing a suit contract, always (ALWAYS) ask yourself:

1. What will happen if I draw?
2. What will happen if I don't draw

A good rule of thumb: If you seem to have too many "immediate losers", you probably need to postpone drawing trump (or bid better)

- Opening leads and early signals are usually honest. If you need count information in a specific suit, lead that suit early in the play.
- If possible, delay your important decisions. Get all the information you can about the defender's distribution before you decide how to attack a critical suit. Run another suit or cash extra trumps (if you can do so safely) and see what you can learn from the opponent's discards. If you have tricks to lose, consider giving the defenders the lead.

I'm going on vacation and will not be here Monday, May 29th and Monday, June 5th. I'll return June 12th for class. Title of today's class, is a BIG hint of where I'm going. Stay safe and have fun at the tables, see you on the 12th.