

TO DRAW OR NOT DRAW

For play at a suit contract always: Think at Trick 1, Count losers (in the long trump hand)
Decide what will happen if you draw trump.

Reasons for postponing trump drawing: Need to ruff losers in the dummy, need to establish a discard, need trumps for ruffing, need trump for entries, need trump in dummy for control.

When playing a suit contract always (and I mean ALWAYS) ask yourself: What will happen if I draw? 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 trump drawing (or bid better)

		8532		
		943	Pass	
		K6	3 Clubs	
		A843	4 Diamonds	
AKJ94				Q107 2 Spades
K5	1 Spade			Q762 Pass
102	Pass			753 Pass
9652	Pass			Q107
		6		DEALER 1 Diamond
		AJ108		Double (Take Out)
		AQJ984		3 Diamonds
		KJ		5 Diamonds

A of spades lead, K of spades at trick 2, you ruff. Plan your play.

		73	2 Diamonds	
		852	3 Clubs	
		9643	3 Spades	
		KQJ10		
Q865				92
764	PASS			1093 PASS
85	PASS			AKQJ10 PASS
9873				652 Pass
		AKJ104	DEALER – 2 Clubs	
		AKQJ	2 Spades	
		72	3 Hearts	
		A4	4 Spades	

8 of diamonds lead, East plays 3 rounds of diamonds, S ruffs with the 10, your play?

		J54	DEALER – 1 Club		
		A654		4 Hearts	
		84			
		AKQ7			
72					AKQ63
K98	Pass				3
K7653					1 Spade
964					J1092
					Pass
					853
		1098			
		QJ1072			
		AQ	2 Hearts		
		J102	Pass		

7 of spades lead, East cashes 3 spades and West has to find a discard. What do you discard?

		AJ65			
		Q6	3 Spades		
		A965			
		632			
102				43	Pass
J97532				A104	
4	Pass			KJ82	
K1054	Pass			J987	
		KQ987			
		K8	DEALER – 1 Spade		
		Q1073	4 Spades		
		AQ			

The lead is the 4 of diamonds. Count your tricks, plan your play.

BALANCING: You are in Balancing Seat if you can make this statement, "If I pass, the Bidding is over." The opposite "of the Balancing Seat is the Direct Seat."

In Balancing Seat, all actions are usually weaker than in Direct Seat-about a king less. When the opponents bid and raise, they have a fit, you probably have a fit.

Partner of the balancer: Tread lightly, don't hand partner, he has bid your cards.