

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Welcome to this - the 40th session of Shark's Pointers Online!

Today's presentation is entitled, "Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump"!

(Pun intended....)

I should state in advance that any coups that we may be discussing today will have absolutely nothing to do whatsoever with any events of the past few days, the past few months, and/or these past four or five years.

Given that disclaimer, it still seems somehow especially appropriate and timely that we should be discussing today's topic.

Here's a hand that was recently played online...

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

IMPs
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 10 4 3
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ Q 10 7 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 10



♠ A K J 6 5
 ♥ K J 9 4 3
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ —

Opening Lead ♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

4 ♠ by South

Our declarer ruffed the opening club lead. Playing IMPs, looking at what looked to be 4 sure spade tricks and 6 sure diamond tricks, he decided to play a second high trump. When both followed, he continued with a third round.

This turned out to be the full hand...

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

IMPs

North Deals

None Vul

	♠ 7 4 3										
	♥ 10 5										
	♦ Q 10 7 5 4 2										
	♣ Q 10										
♠ 10 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 9 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A 9 7 6		♥ Q 2									
♦ —		♦ J 8 6 3									
♣ A K 9 6 5 3 2		♣ J 8 7 4									
	♠ A K J 6 5										
	♥ K J 8 4 3										
	♦ A K 9										
	♣ —										

Opening Lead ♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

4 ♠ by South

East won the ♠ Q, tapped declarer out of his last trump with a club, and West eventually got in with the A of hearts to run all his clubs - DOWN 3! Yuk!

Looking at all 4 hands, you can see what can happen if declarer plays a heart to dummy's 10 before drawing a second round of trumps. East can win and return a heart to partner's Ace. Now a heart back will get ruffed by East. A diamond can be ruffed and a second heart ruffed.

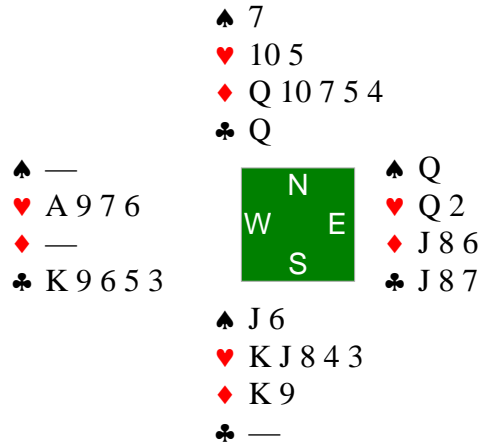
All tolled, the opponents will score 5 tricks (2 Hearts, 2 heart ruffs, and 1 diamond ruff)

That's no bargain! Can you see the winning line?

After taking the second high trump, declarer needs to play the A (or K) of diamonds out of hand. If both follow, now he can safely exit with a trump. But if the cards are as above, he needs to play very carefully. Let's see what happens if he now plays a heart towards dummy's 10...

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

IMPs
North Deals
Neither Vul



Opening Lead ♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

4 ♠ by South

East will win the Q of ♥, Cash the Q of ♠, and tap declarer with a club. All declarer will get in this position is his two top diamonds. Once again down 3.

So, let's go back and look at all the hands...

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

IMPs
North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 2	♠ 7 4 3	♠ Q 9 8
♥ A 9 7 6	♥ 10 5	♥ Q 2
♦ —	♦ Q 10 7 5 4 2	♦ J 8 6 3
♣ A K 9 6 5 3 2	♣ Q 10	♣ J 8 7 4
	♠ A K J 6 5	
	♥ K J 8 4 3	
	♦ A K 9	
	♣ —	

Opening Lead ♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

4 ♠ by South

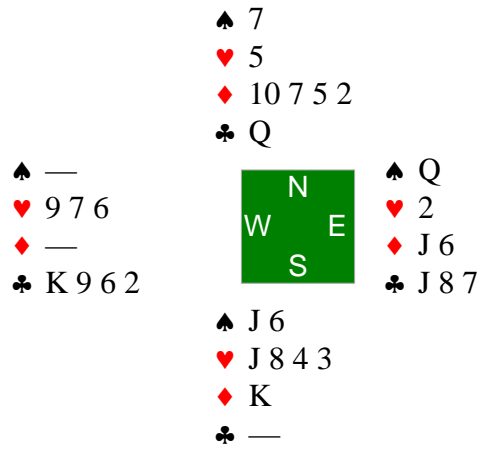
As suggested, after cashing 2 high trumps, it can't hurt declarer to play a high diamond.

When he sees this dastardly division of the cards will limit his side to only 3 diamond tricks, he has to look to the heart suit as the only way he can achieve his goal of 10 tricks. He might as well cross to dummy with the Q of ♦, and lead the 10 of ♥'s. Assuming East covers, South will play the K and West will win the Ace.

This will be the position...

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

IMPs
North Deals
Neither Vul



Opening Lead ♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

4 ♠ by South

West will win the Ace of ♥, and play the King of ♣. South will ruff in hand with the 6 of spades, and play J, and 4 of hearts losing the trick to West, but he still has a trump in each hand.

At this point, the defense has scored 2 heart tricks and still has the spade Q.

It certainly won't help East to ruff his partner's heart trick so he will probably pitch a diamond.

West will continue with the K of clubs, which South will ruff, but now when he ruffs a heart in dummy, the defense has no chance.

EW will score 2 heart tricks, but South will be in control of the trumps and can score 2 hearts, 5 spades and 3 diamonds - making 4 ♠!

By Bidin' time, and not driving out trump prematurely, South will prevail.

Now, let's take a look at another hand...

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

IMPs
East Deals
Both Vul



♠ A
♥ A K 7 5 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ A Q 7 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		4 ♦	?

You hold the South hand, and after an extremely long hesitation, East opens with 4 ♦, which is explained as natural. South has a difficult decision over 4D, but to pass seems potentially catastrophic, as does X. Even 4H is quite risky.

If 4H gets doubled, we could easily be going for 1100. You don't know what the long hesitation was about, but you are sure there must be something unusual about the East hand.

No bid is without risk, but considering the alternatives, 4H is the bid I would choose.

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

East Deals
Both Vul

♠ Q 7 6 5 3 2
♥ 10 9
♦ 6
♣ K J 10 9



♠ A
♥ A K 7 5 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ A Q 7 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		4 ♦	4 ♥

All pass

Opening Lead ♦ Q

4 ♥ by South

Well, the first hurdle is overcome as your 4H bid gets passed out...

After the lead of the Q of ♦, and dummy hits, you stop to assess your chances. You are wondering why East thought so much before bidding, but you can't worry about that now, and you can't let it override your giving yourself the best chance to make your contract.

Off the top, you start with 1 ♠, 2 top ♥'s, and 4 ♣ tricks. You will certainly have more heart tricks, but it's not clear how many just yet. If diamonds are 7-2 and hearts 3-3, you can ruff a diamond and lose just 2 diamonds and a heart to make your contract.

Let's take a few minutes to review the percentages - a luxury we can afford during a presentation, but something we obviously can't do as declarers planning a line of play.

These will all be posted on Tim's website, so you don't have to memorize or take notes.

Just note that *missing an even number of cards in a suit, it's more likely the missing cards will split unevenly. Missing an odd number and they will most likely split as evenly as possible...*

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trumps

Probability of Distribution of Cards in Two Hidden Hands

Number of Cards Opponents Hold	Suit is Divided	%
2	1-1	52%
	2-0	48
3	2-1	78%
	3-0	22
4	3-1	49.74%
	2-2	40.70
	4-0	9.57
5	3-2	67.83%
	4-1	28.26
	5-0	3.91
6	4-2	48.45%
	3-3	35.53
	5-1	14.53
	6-0	1.49
7	4-3	62.17%
	5-2	30.52
	6-1	6.78
	7-0	0.52
8	5-3	47.12%
	4-4	32.72
	6-2	17.14
	7-1	2.86
	8-0	0.16
9	5-4	58.90%
	6-3	31.41
	7-2	8.57
	8-1	1.07
	9-0	0.05

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

East Deals
Both Vul

♠ Q 7 6 5 3 2
♥ 10 9
♦ 6
♣ K J 10 9



♠ A
♥ A K 7 5 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ A Q 7 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		4 ♦	4 ♥

All pass

Opening Lead ♦ Q

4 ♥ by South

The opening lead of the Q of ♦ is overtaken with the K and low trump is returned.

OK, we see that we are missing 6 hearts (an even number) - and a 4-2 trump split is probably more likely than a 3-3 split.

Please note the pointer we have raised time and time again. ***If one hand is known to be unusually long in one suit, the other hand will probably be longer in the other suits.***

So whether diamonds are divided 8-1 or (hopefully 7-2), a 4-2 trump split seems much more likely. What else do we know? Well, clearly, the K of spades must be in the West hand, or East would most likely have opened the bidding 1 ♦ - not 4 ♦.

The play at trick 2 seems pretty obvious. You had better win this trick in hand. The question is, what do you play at trick 3? Let's see what happens if you return a diamond and this is the actual layout of the hand...

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

East Deals
Both Vul

♠ K 9 8 4	♠ Q 7 6 5 3 2	♠ J 10									
♥ Q J 6 3	♥ 10 9	♥ 8 4									
♦ Q	♦ 6	♦ A K J 10 9 8 7 5									
♣ 8 4 3 2	♣ K J 10 9	♣ 6									
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	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A										
	♥ A K 7 5 2										
	♦ 4 3 2										
	♣ A Q 7 5										

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		4 ♦	4 ♥

All pass

Opening Lead ♦ Q

4 ♥ by South

Let's assume the distribution is as shown above. Let's assume West ruffs the second ♦ with the J of ♥, and returns a club. Now you win in hand - to preserve 3 club entries to dummy. You cash a second high trump. You cash the Ace of ♠, cross to dummy with clubs and ruff 3 spades. All tolled, you will score 4 clubs, 1 spade, and 5 heart tricks.

The only real problem is if East started with a void in either spades or clubs, 8 diamonds and 2 small hearts.

That's a very plausible distribution based on this bidding. If that is the distribution, there's not much you can do. West win ruff the 2nd diamond high ahead of dummy, give his partner a ruff, and will eventually score the setting trick with the other heart honor.

OK, let's proceed with the play....

Bidin' Time Driving Out Trump

East Deals
Both Vul

♠ K 9 8 4	♠ Q 7 6 5 3 2	♠ J 10
♥ Q J 6 3	♥ 10 9	♥ 8 4
♦ Q 5	♦ 6	♦ A K J 10 9 8 7
♣ 8 3 2	♣ K J 10 9	♣ 6 4

♠ A	♠ A
♥ A K 7 5 2	♥ A
♦ 4 3 2	♦ A
♣ A Q 7 5	♣ A



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		4 ♦	4 ♥

All pass

Opening Lead ♦ Q

4 ♥ by South

After the diamond is ruffed in dummy, declarer can get back to hand with either a club to the Ace or a spade to the Ace, cash the other high trump, and get to dummy in clubs to ruff spades back to hand.

You may notice that a trump lead - any trump - will defeat this contract.

If he leads a diamond, your partner can win and return a trump. This defense prevents declarer from ruffing a diamond in dummy, he will always come up short a trick.

The trump lead is somewhat counter intuitive. The Q of ♦ is certainly the lead that will be made at most, if not all of the tables.

With length in trumps, it usually is most effective to start a tapping defense. This is true when there is shortness in the suit led by the hand with the long trumps. When, as in this case, the shortness is in the hand with the short trumps, it is critical to drive out trumps ASAP. Bidin your time driving out trump on defense under these circumstances will likely spell defeat.

I'll leave you with this final pointer.

When the auction reveals that the dummy will be short in your side's long suit, lead trumps. When the auction reveals that declarer will be short in your side's strong suit, try a tapping defense.