

## Due For A Promotion?

Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen!

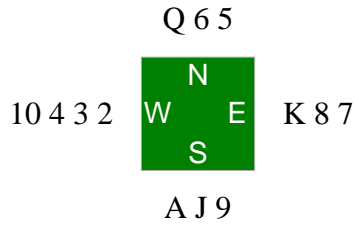
Welcome to this - our 54th session of Shark's Pointers Online!

Today we are going to talk about trump promotions. They come up frequently, and frequently they are misused or missed completely.

The basic concept behind "cover and honor with an honor" is to promote - or elevate the value of a lower card to a winning status.

Here's the simple case....

### Due For A Promotion?



Here's how the spade suit is divided on this hand. North plays the Q of spades from dummy.

If East properly covers the honor with an honor by playing his K, then South will win the A and the J, but his partner will win the third round with his 10.

If, on the other hand, East ducks the Q, then the Q will win the first trick, and a second round to the J will win also. NS will win 3 spade tricks!

Covering the Q with the K essentially promotes the 10 in his partner's hand to a winner.

Trump promotions are slightly different. What they do is to essentially give declarer a "pay me now or pay me later" choice. He/she can either trump high and lose a trick later, or trump low and get overruffed.

Look at this hand...

### Due For A Promotion?

IMPs  
 East Deals  
 E-W Vul

♠ 3 2	♠ J 10 6	♠ A K Q 5 4
♥ J 5 4	♥ 3 2	♥ 6
♦ J 9 8 3 2	♦ 10	♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ 10 8 7	♣ A Q J 9 4 3 2	♣ K 6 5
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;">                 N                  W     E                  S             </div>	
	♠ 9 8 7	
	♥ A K Q 10 9 8 7	
	♦ A K Q	
	♣ —	

Opening Lead 3 of ♠

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♠	4 ♥
All pass			
4 ♥ by South			

East plays the AKQ of spades, and continues with a 4th round when West signals that he doesn't want a diamond return. If South ruffs with the 10, West will overruff with the J. If South instead ruffs high, West will eventually get the setting trick with his Jack.

So now, let's look at some very interesting hands that occurred this past week.

Here was the first hand...

## Due For A Promotion?

Matchpoints

West Deals

Both Vul

	♠ J 10 6 4		
	♥ A 4 2		
	♦ Q 10 8 7		
	♣ K J		
♠ 9 7 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ K 5	
♥ K 9 6 3		♥ J 7	
♦ A K		♦ J 9 6 5 4 2	
♣ Q 9 2		♣ 8 6 5	
	♠ A Q 8		
	♥ Q 10 8 5		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A 10 7 4 3		

NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2♦; Par +660

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

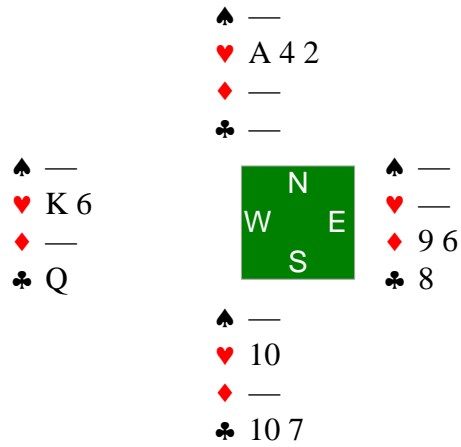
3 ♥ by South

On this deal, the NS bidding was bizarre. After a weak jump shift in 2D, South's 2H bid was a terrible underbid and North's 3H bid was a terrible overbid. South should have bid 3D and North would have to decide between 3S and 3NT. As it was, North had a clear pass of 2H and South had a clear raise to 4H after partner raised to 3. Be that as it may, South's declarer play justified his conservative pass of 3H.

West started with the K of diamonds and shifted to the 7 of spades. South played the J from dummy, East covered with the K and South won in hand. Now he played a club to the K and led a diamond off dummy ruffing in hand with the 5 as West followed with the A. Now declarer cashed the A of clubs and crossed to dummy with a spade to the 10. Declarer played the Q of diamonds off dummy pitching a club from hand which West was happy to ruff with the 3 to give his partner as spade ruff with the 7. The J of diamonds back was ruffed with the 8 and overruffed with the 9. Now, another spade was led and ruffed with the J and overruffed with the Q. Here was the end position...

## Due For A Promotion?

Matchpoints  
West Deals  
Both Vul



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

3 ♥ by South

South now led his 10 of hearts, but West covered with the K. West's 6 of hearts had been promoted into the setting trick!

Here's a very complex hand...

### Due For A Promotion?

Matchpoints  
 East Deals  
 Both Vul

	♠ A Q 8		
	♥ Q 10 8 5		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A 10 7 4 3		
♠ K 5	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             N              W     E              S           </div>	♠ 9 7 3 2	
♥ J 7		♥ K 9 6 3	
♦ J 9 6 5 4 2		♦ A K	
♣ 8 6 5		♣ Q 9 2	
	♠ J 10 6 4		
	♥ A 4 2		
	♦ Q 10 8 7		
	♣ K J		

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

3 ♥ by North

## Due For A Promotion?

East Deals  
None Vul

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

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

4 ♥ by West

Against West's rather exuberant 4H contract North led the A of clubs and continued a club. South won the club and shifted to the J of spades. West covered and North won the Ace and continued with the Q and the 10. This is where the defense gets a little tricky. First thing that South needs to realize is that declarer is very likely to follow to the third round of spades. Why?

Because partner started with A of clubs and AQ10 of spades. If he started with AQ10xxx, he very likely would have bid 3S over West's 3H. So, knowing the spade will live, what should South discard on the 10 of spades?

The correct answer is the 7 of hearts! Why? Not to promote a heart trick, but to gain the lead in order to lead a high club and hopefully to promote a heart trick this way. Let's stop and think for a minute about the distribution. West is known to have started with 2 clubs and probably 3 spades. So that would leave him with 8 red cards. If his hearts were headed by AKQ, he might have bid 4H, so it is likely that partner has one of the top honors. If West started with 7 hearts and 1 diamond, then partner started with 4 hearts. The third round of clubs will probably result in a ruff and an overruff. Now, when partner continues with the 4th round of spades, South plans to ruff with his J of hearts in order to hopefully promote a trump trick. This is kind of a back and forth assault on West's trump holding. As it turns out declarer went down 4 tricks. If North's heart spots were a little better, declarer would have gone down 5 or possibly even 6 on this defense!

Trump promotions come up frequently and are a very important thing to master if you want to become a shark! See you next week. I'll have some hands from the D25 GNT Open Flight qualifying round that will be held this weekend.