**Notes on the basic principles to be taught in this section**.

* This section is about throwing losers away before the enemy have enough winners to defeat the contract.
* A necessary precursor to adopting a line of play is to *count winners* and *losers*.
* Although the expression has been used informally before, we introduce more rigorously ***trump*** or ***dump*** to put forward the alternative lines of play for ridding ourselves of losers.
* This section, in fact, is all about ***dumping*** losers, sometimes immediately, sometimes by setting up a side-suit at short notice.

Four hands need setting up (overleaf); they are all full deals. In each case the wrong line of play (in essence, playing trumps prematurely) would lead to defeat. The defenders’ cards are largely irrelevant and have been greyed out.

**Hand 1**. (Hand 1 in the student notes, rotated through 180˚ so that North is declarer in 4♥)

A count of winners and losers shows an anomaly. There are twelve winners (three Spades, five Hearts and four Clubs) but four losers (three Diamonds and the Ace of trumps).

After the innocent ♠J lead from East, declarer (North) cannot afford to play trumps – should he do so West would cash three Diamond winners very quickly. Instead, declarer must dump his Diamond losers (all of them) on the top Clubs. As it happens, East ruffs the last Club, but that trick (and the ♥A) are the only losers. Note that the two tricks lost are to the Two of trumps and the Ace of trumps.

**Hand 2**. (Hand 2 in the student notes, rotated through 90˚ so that East is declarer in 4♠).

South leads the ♥J against East’s 4♠ and declarer must **Count** and **Plan**. There are sufficient winners (five Spades, three Hearts and one Diamond) but too many losers (one Spade and three Clubs). Playing trumps too early would be a mistake – first things first. Declarer must dump a loser from dummy on the top Hearts.

Having done that it is safe to play on Spades – losing just the ♠A and two top Clubs. Note that the third Club loser gets ruffed on table. It’s worth emphasising that ruffing Diamonds in hand is largely pointless as it’s ruffing in the long trump hand.

**Hand 3**. (Hand 3 in the student notes, South is declarer in 4♠).

West leads the ♦K against 4♠ and South’s **Count** and **Plan** shows there to be enough winners (four Spades, three Hearts, one Diamond and two slow Clubs). However, after the ♦A has gone there are four losers (one Spade, two Diamonds and a Club). Before conceding the lead with the Ace of trumps, therefore, South must dump a Diamond loser by playing three rounds of Hearts.

This does entail *playing the high card from the short side first*, of course, as declarer must play off the ♥K and follow with the ♥A Q to dump a Diamond loser. *Now* it’s the right time to draw trumps.

**Hand 4**. (Hand 4 in the student notes, rotated through 90˚ so that West is declarer in 4♥).

West plays 4♠ against the lead of the ♦Q. The defenders have the *tempo* to set up a Diamond trick to go with their three Aces. West must, therefore, play a Spade at trick two to set up a discard for his losing Diamond. He takes the second round of Diamonds, dumps his Diamond loser on the third Spade and then, and only then, plays on trumps.

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| Hand 1 North plays in 4♥; ♠J lead.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | ♠ | Q 7 5 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | K J 10 9 8 5 | | | | |  |  |  | ♦ | 10 8 6 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | 5 | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | ♠ | 8 6 2 |  | N |  | ♠ | J 10 9 3 | |  | ♥ | A 4 |  | W E |  | ♥ | 7 6 2 | |  | ♦ | A K Q |  |  | ♦ | 9 7 4 | |  | ♣ | 10 8 6 3 2 |  | S |  | ♣ | 9 7 4 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | ♠ | A K 4 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | Q 3 | | | | |  |  |  | ♦ | J 5 3 2 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | A K Q J | | |  | | Hand 2 East plays in 4♠; ♥J lead.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | ♠ | A | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | 7 6 4 2 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♦ | 10 9 6 5 2 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | A K Q | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | ♠ | 10 5 3 2 |  | N |  | ♠ | K Q J 8 6 4 | |  | ♥ | 5 3 |  | W E |  | ♥ | A K Q | |  | ♦ | A J 7 4 |  |  | ♦ | 3 | |  | ♣ | J 9 7 |  | S |  | ♣ | 10 8 6 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | ♠ | 9 7 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | J 10 9 8 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♦ | K Q 8 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | 5 4 3 2 | | |  | |
| Hand 3 South plays in 4♠; ♦K lead.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | ♠ | Q 10 8 3 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | A Q 5 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♦ | 10 8 6 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | Q J 10 | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | ♠ | 6 4 2 |  | N |  | ♠ | A | |  | ♥ | 10 7 4 |  | W E |  | ♥ | J 8 6 3 2 | |  | ♦ | K Q J 9 |  |  | ♦ | 7 4 2 | |  | ♣ | A 5 3 |  | S |  | ♣ | 7 6 4 2 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | ♠ | K J 9 7 5 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | K 9 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♦ | A 5 3 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | K 9 8 | | |  | | Hand 4West plays in 4♥; ♦Q lead  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | ♠ | 9 8 2 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | A 2 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♦ | Q J 10 9 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | 9 7 5 2 | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | ♠ | 4 3 |  | N |  | ♠ | K Q J | |  | ♥ | K Q J 9 5 |  | W E |  | ♥ | 10 6 4 3 | |  | ♦ | 8 7 4 |  |  | ♦ | A K 5 | |  | ♣ | K Q J |  | S |  | ♣ | 10 8 4 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | ♠ | A 10 7 6 5 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♥ | 8 7 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♦ | 6 3 2 | | |  | |  |  |  | ♣ | A 6 3 | | |  | |