DECLARER MAKE A PLAN

SUIT CONTRACTS

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DECLARER MAKE A PLAN

As soon as Dummy is placed on the table Declarer should make a plan of play.

Count losers in a suit (trump) contract.
Count off the top winners in NT.
Look for trumping opportunities.
Possible discards.
Finesses

Exp 1

Contract 4♥ by East South leads ♦A Plan your play

West
♠ Q932
♥ QJT2
♦ 6
♣ AQ64

East
♠ AJ
♥ A7643
♦ Q8
♣ J753

Losers	1♠, 1♥, 1♦, 1♣ = 4
Trumping	2 in ♠, 1 in ♦
Finesses	1 in ♠, 1 in ♥, 1 in ♣

Play

At first glance we can see 4 losers; 1 in each suit. We should be able to eliminate some losers by finessing. If all the finesses hold we could make 12 tricks.
We lose the opening lead and win whatever is returned. Now we need to enter dummy with a ♣ finesse to the ♣Q. We draw trumps by running the ♥Q from dummy, when this holds we then run the ♥J, then ♥2 to clear the suit.
It turns out that the ♠K is on the wrong side so we end up making 11 tricks in total.

North
♠ T84
♥ K98
♦ KJ975
♣ 92

West
♠ Q932
♥ QJT2
♦ 6
♣ AQ64

East
♠ AJ
♥ A7643
♦ Q8
♣ J753

South
♠ K765
♥ 5
♦ AT432
♣ KT8

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Exp 2

Contract 4♥ by East South leads ♠AKQ Plan your play

West
♠ J86
♥ 9842
♦ Q754
♣ KT

East
♠ 743
♥ AKQJT
♦ A
♣ A432

Losers 3♠
Trumping 3 in ♦, 2 in ♣

Play

After losing the first 3 tricks we need to make the rest.
We win trick 4 with one of our Aces.
Then we play two rounds of trumps, noticing that South only follows once. If we now draw the last trump from dummy this will leave us with losing ♣s in East.
The answer is to play low ♣ to the ♣K then back to the ♣A. This creates a void in West so we can now trump our next ♣. Back to East with a ♦ trump then trump our last ♣ in West.

Contract just making.

North
♠ T95
♥ 653
♦ KJ96
♣ Q97

West
♠ J86
♥ 9842
♦ Q754
♣ KT

East
♠ 743
♥ AKQJT
♦ A
♣ A432

South
♠ AKQ2
♥ 7
♦ T832
♣ J865

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Exp 3

Contract 4♠ by West North leads ♦K Plan your play.

West
♠ AKJT2
♥ 4
♦ A964
♣ T94

East
♠ Q63
♥ A7632
♦ 3
♣ A875

Losers 2♣
Trumping 4 in ♥, 3 in ♦, 1 in ♣

Play

We win the opening trick with our ♦A. Do we now draw trumps? The answer is no, if we draw trumps we will have no trumps left in East to trump our 3 little ♦s.
So at trick two we must play ♦4 and trump in East. Then play ♥A and ♥2 trumping in West. So we carry on with ♦6 to the ♠6 trump in East. ♥3 to ♠T trump in West and finally ♦9 to the last trump ♠Q in East. We cash the ♣A then concede 2 club tricks making 11 in total.

North
♠ 84
♥ T985
♦ KQJ5
♣ KJ6

West
♠ AKJT2
♥ 4
♦ A964
♣ T94

East
♠ Q63
♥ A7632
♦ 3
♣ A875

South
♠ 975
♥ KQJ
♦ T872
♣ Q32

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Exp 4

Contract 4♠ by East South leads ♣K Plan your play.

West
♠ 9872
♥ 654
♦ AQ7
♣ A32

East
♠ QJT643
♥ AKQ
♦ K
♣ 876

Losers 2♠, 2♣ = 4

Play

We can count 4 losers in total. One too many. With the ♣K lead it means if we draw trumps straight away the defence win with their top ♠s and cash their ♣Q&J.
How can we get over this problem? We can not get rid of our 2 losing ♠s so we need to try a get rid of a losing ♣. The key to this hand is you only need to get rid of one loser not two to make your contract.
So on the first trick we win with the ♣A then play the ♦A dropping the ♦K. Then play the ♦Q discarding a ♣ loser. If we were to get greedy and play the ♦7 to the ♦K we then have no way of getting back into dummy to use our ♦AQ.
Now the contract is safe with 1♣ loser and the top 2♠s as long as we now draw the trump.

North
♠ AK
♥ T973
♦ JT86
♣ 954

West
♠ 9872
♥ 654
♦ AQ7
♣ A32

East
♠ QJT643
♥ AKQ
♦ K
♣ 876

South
♠ 5
♥ J82
♦ 95432
♣ KQJT

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Exp 5

Contract 5♦ by West | North leads ♠A | Plan your play

West
♠ 98532
♥
♦ AK863
♣ AK8

East
♠ 6
♥ KJ9753
♦ QJT9
♣ Q3

Losers 1♠

Play

If we count top tricks we come to eight; 5 in ♦s and 3 in ♣s. But we counted only one loser; the ♠A. This is because we plan to trump our long ♠s in West and trump our long ♥s in East. For this reason we plan to cross trump our way to the contract.
We should first take our 3 winning ♣s discarding a small ♥ on the ♣K. Now we just cross trump our way to 12 tricks.

North
♠ AKJT
♥ 42
♦ 754
♣ J974

West
♠ 98532
♥
♦ AK863
♣ AK8

East
♠ 6
♥ KJ9753
♦ QJT9
♣ Q3

South
♠ Q74
♥ AQT86
♦ 2
♣ T652

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