### Trump-Suit Management

#### As Declarer in a Trump Contract

- One of your first thoughts should be how to handle the trump suit.
- In general you should extract the opponent's trump as soon as you can.
- However, if you don't have the ace of trump, you should think carefully before you give the opponents the lead.

### You May Have Some Work to Do Before You Pull Trump

- **↑** 7 4 2
- **∀** K 9 7
- ♦ K 9 3
- ♣ Q J 4 3

- ♥ Q J 10 8 5
- ♦ A 7 4 2
- ♣ A K 4 3

# Another Hand Where You Delay Pulling Trump

- **A** A 7 4 2
- **7** 3
- ♦ A K 6 5
- **♣** J 7 2

- **★** K 8 6 3
- **Y**A652
- **4** 3
- ♣ A 4 3

#### When You Need Trump for Transportation

- **◆** 5 4 2
- **♥** A K J 5
- ♦ J 6 5
- ◆ 9 6 3

- **♠** A Q J 10
- **Q**8762
- ◆ A K
- ♣ A 4

### When You Need a Dummy Reversal

- **♦** J 5 4 2
- **♥** KJ 10
- ♦ A K 5
- ♣ A 6 3

**♠** K

- **Y**AQ962
- ♦ 9 6 2
- ♣ J 7 5 4 2

## You must also be concerned with how to pull trump

In isolation, I know you know how to play this suit.

K J 8 5 But, consider two different hand, with the same trump holding.

#### Hand 1 "Eight Ever, Nine Never"

- **★** 10 9 6
- **Y** A 9 7 3
- **♦** 5
- ♣ KJ1043

```
South West North East

1nt pass 2 ♣ pass
2 ♥ pass 4 ♥ all pass
```

**♦** 5

- **♠** Q 3 2
- **♥** KJ85
- ♦ A J 4
- **♣** A Q 6

#### Hand 2 "Eight Ever, Nine Never"

- ↑ 7 6 4 3
- **♥** A 9 7 3
- ♦ A 8 3
- ♣ J 10

South West North East

1 ♣ 1 ♠ dble 2 ♠

4 ♥ all pass

```
♦ A
```

- **♦** 2
- **∀** KJ85
- **♦** 7 5
- ♣ AKQ984

## You must also be concerned with how to pull trump.

A

9

In isolation, I know you know how to

play this suit.

7

6

3

But the difference between the

finesse and the drop is only about 3

percentage points.

**♦** 

K

J

8

5

Now, suppose you were to know that west had started with 6 spades and east had only 2.

#### Hand 3 "Eight Ever, Nine Never"

- ♠ 6♥ K J 10 9♠ A 10 8 3 2
- ♣ A 7 4

South	West	North	East
1 nt	pass	2 🍁	pass
2 🔸	pass	3 🔸	pass
3nt	all pass		

**♦** K

- **A** A **8**
- **♥** Q 5 2
- ♦ KJ54
- **★** K Q J 10

#### Hand 4 "Eight Ever, Nine Never"

- ★ 5 2♥ A K 3 2♦ A 10 8 3 2
- **♣** 7 4

```
South West North East

1 nt pass 2 ♣ pass
2 ♦ pass 3 ♦ pass
3nt all pass
```

```
♠ 6
```

- **★** K Q 4
- **♥** Q J 9
- ♦ K 9 5 4
- **A** 5 2

#### Consider this Situation

- ★ 5 2♥ A K 3 2♦ A 10 8 3 2
- ⋆ K Q

South	West	North	East
1 nt	pass	2 🍁	pass
2 🔸	pass	6nt	all pass

**♠** 6

- **★** K Q 4
- **♥** Q J 9
- ♦ K 9 5 4
- **A** 5 2

East wins the spade ace and continues spades, which you win with your queen. You play a diamond toward dummy. West plays the queen.

#### Safety Plays

- A safety play can sometimes insure a contract when a suit splits in an adverse way.
- However, a safety play often gives up a trick that would not be lost if the suit split in a normal manner.
- In matchpoint scoring, that can produce a sub-par result.

#### Safety Play Hand 1

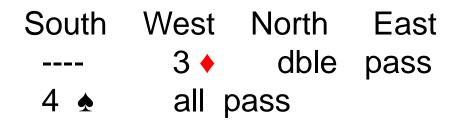
- **♠** A 2
- **Y** A 10 3 2
- ♦ A 10 8 3
- ★ K Q 4
- **★**6
- **♠** K Q 4
- Q 8 7 6 5 4
- ♦ K 4
- **A** A 5

South	West	North	East
		1 nt	pass
2 🔸	pass	3 🔻	pass
4nt	pass	<b>5</b> 🔸	pass
<b>6 ♥</b>			

You have 6 ♥ made with no problem, unless one defender has all 3 (K, J, 9) missing trump. To guard against that possibility, lead a low heart from north toward dummy, covering any thing east plays, except of course the king. If either opponent has all three hearts, you will lose only one.

#### Safety Play Hand 2

- **↑** 7 5 3 2
- **♥** K Q 3 2
- ♦ A 3
- ★ K Q 4
- **♦** 6
- **★** A Q 10 9
- **♥** A J 5
- ♦ Q J 2
- A J



You arrive at 4 ♠, after a preemptive 3 ♦ bid by west. How will you play the hand?