

Ruffing in the Closed Hand

Using a Hidden Dummy

Ruffing in Declarer's Hand – Not Good

- When you learned to play bridge, I'll bet you were told:
 - You gain tricks by ruffing in the dummy.
 - You should not ruff in your hand unless you have to, in order to maintain control of the hand.
 - You may even have learned that sometimes a good defense is to force declarer to ruff in the hand, but that it is not necessarily good defense to force dummy to ruff.

All of that is good advice Most of the Time.

Ruffing in Declarer's Hand – Good Sometimes

- There are times when ruffing in declarer's hand is good play.
- This is usually when partner makes some sort of two suit overcall and you must choose between partner's suits.
- In order to make this work, you sometimes need the high trump in the short hand.
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There Are Many Ways to Play a Bridge Hand

- They can be a varied and creative as the declarer can make them and the cards allow.
- The first skill is the ability to recognize the possibilities.
- In the examples I will show, you must turn yourself around and **see the hand from the dummy's perspective.**

Sometime This Situation Comes Up When Partner Makes a Two-Suit Overcall

- Michaels Cue
- Unusual No Trump
- Etc.

west	north	east	south	Ex. 1
1nt	2♥*	pass	2♠	

*d.o.n.t. bid
 Opening lead ♣K

♠ A J 8 3 2
 ♥ J 10 9 4 3
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ 8

♠ K 10
 ♥ A K 5 2
 ♦ Q 6 5
 ♣ K Q 10 4

♠ Q 7 4
 ♥ 7
 ♦ 9 7 4 3
 ♣ A 7 6 3 2

♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ Q 8 6
 ♦ K J 10 2
 ♣ J 9 3

west	north	east	south	Ex. 2
1♠	2nt*	pass	3♦	

*unusual no trump
Opening lead ♣Q

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

West north east south Ex. 3
1♣ 2nt pass 3♦ (all pass)

♠ 7 5
♥ A 9 6 5 4
♦ A J 10 9 7
♣ 2

♠ Q 6
♥ K Q J
♦ 6 4 3
♣ K Q J 10 6

♠ K J 4 2
♥ 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ A 8 7 5 4

♠ A 10 9 8 3
♥ 10 8 7 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 9 8 3

Transfer Hands

- Another case where declarer's hand has fewer trump than dummy is after a no trump opening and a transfer to a suit.

South	west	north	east	Ex. 4
1nt	pass	2♥	pass	
2♠	pass	3nt	pass	
4♠ (all pass)				

*transfer to spades
 Opening lead ♥K

♠ K Q 10 9 5
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ J 3 2
 ♣ A 4 3

♠ 8 3
 ♥ K Q J 8 7
 ♦ Q 3 2
 ♣ 10 9

♠ A J 2
 ♥ A 9 4 3
 ♦ A K
 ♣ 8 7 6 2

♠ 7 6 4
 ♥ 10 6
 ♦ 9 7 6 5
 ♣ K Q J 5

South	west	north	east	Ex. 5
1nt	pass	2♦*	pass	
2♥	(all pass)			

*transfer to hearts

Opening lead ♠Q

♠ K 6
 ♥ K 10 9 4 3
 ♦ 9 5 2
 ♣ 6 5 3

♠ Q J 10 2
 ♥ 8 6 2
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ J 10 9 8

♠ A 9 8 5
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ A 7 4 3
 ♣ A 2

♠ 7 4 3
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ K J 10 8
 ♣ K Q 7 4

South	west	north	east	Ex. 6
2nt	pass	4♦	pass	
4♥	pass	4nt	pass	
5♦	pass	6♥ (all pass)		

*transfer to hearts
 Opening lead ♠Q

♠ K 9 8 5
 ♥ K 10 9 8 4 2
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ 6

♠ Q J 10 6 2
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ J 10 9 3

♠ A 10
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ A K 4 3 2
 ♣ A K 4

♠ 7 4 3
 ♥ A
 ♦ J 10 8 7
 ♣ Q 8 7 5 2

South	west	north	east	Ex. 7
1nt	pass	4♥*	pass	
4♠	pass	4nt	pass	
5♦**	pass	6♠ (all pass)		

*transfer to spades

**3 key cards

Opening lead ♣K

♠ Q J 10 9 7 4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A 2
 ♣ A 9 8 5

♠ 8 6
 ♥ Q 9 7
 ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ K Q J 4

♠ A K 2
 ♥ A J 10 3
 ♦ K 9 6 3
 ♣ 7 6

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

North	east	south	west	Ex. 8
1♦	pass	1♥	pass	
2♥	pass	4♥	(all pass)	

Opening lead ♠10

♠ K 7 5
 ♥ A Q J 10
 ♦ A 9 8 6 4
 ♣ 5

♠ 10 9 8 4 3
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ K Q J

♠ A Q 2
 ♥ K 6 5 4
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A 9 7 6 2

♠ J 6
 ♥ 9 7 3
 ♦ Q 10 8 7
 ♣ 10 8 4 3

North	east	south	west	Ex. 9
1♣	pass	1♦	pass	
2♦	pass	4 ^{nt}	pass	
5♣*	pass	6♦	(all pass)	

*1 key card
opening lead ♣Q

♠ 7 5
♥ K 8
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ A K 6 5 2

♠ A Q
♥ 10 9 7 4
♦ 5 3 2
♣ Q J 10 7

♠ K J 6 2
♥ A Q J 3
♦ A K 8 7
♣ 4

♠ 10 9 8 4 3
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 6 4
♣ 9 8 3

Final Thoughts

- The important point of this presentation is: don't be locked into a way of thinking.
- It is usually a good idea to avoid running in the closed hand,
- But Not Always
- Sometimes you have to look at what is usually a good idea and say, “Not This Time.”