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A series of six declarer-play deals, intended for V-Blue Year 2. SA version.

Y2 VBlue #5 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 1
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: None

West	North	East	South
-	P	P	1♠
P	2♠	P	4♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♦ K


We play in 4♠ and West leads the ♦K. The key to success is in counting our *winners* and *losers*.

There are only nine winners (five Spades, two Hearts, one Diamond and one Club) so an extra winner has to be generated. This comes from a Club ruff in dummy – in the short trump hand. To prepare the groundwork we have to concede an early Club trick.

Suppose we had held ♠K 5 in the dummy and ♣A 7 6 in our hand. We could have scored a Club ruff immediately.

With only ♣J 5 in the dummy, we need to give the defenders a trick in Clubs before we could score our ruff.

We mentioned that we could not afford to draw three rounds of trumps at the start, because we would then have had no trump in dummy for the planned Club ruff. In fact, we could not afford to draw two rounds of trumps at the start either. If we did, East would draw a third round when we ducked a Club trick subsequently!

	North	
	♠ K65	
	♥ Q85	
	♦ 86532	
	♣ J5	
West		East
♠ 82		♠ 973
♥ T74		♥ A963
♦ KQJ9		♦ T4
♣ Q942		♣ KT83
	South	
	♠ AQJT4	
	♥ KJ2	
	♦ A7	
	♣ A76	

This set of six deals is by our guest author David Bird from England.

This is (yet) another deal where you need to make a plan at the start. Good luck!



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Y2 VBlue #5 David's Deals SA	Contract: 3N
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 2
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S


West	North	East	South
-	-	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

Lead: ♠ J

We play in 3NT and have to decide how to make best use of dummy's meagre collection of high cards. Essentially, how can we set up the Diamonds?

Establishing a suit at No-trumps may involve knocking out the defenders' high cards. On this deal, it requires a different technique – to duck a round or two, to exhaust the defenders' stoppers in the suit.

By holding up the ♦A until the third round we ensure that we have an entry to dummy to enjoy the two established extra tricks in Diamonds.

	North	
	♠ 42	
	♥ 832	
	♦ AT863	
	♣ J85	
West		East
♠ JT965		♠ 873
♥ J974		♥ Q5
♦ K2		♦ QJ9
♣ Q3		♣ K9642
	South	
	♠ AKQ	
	♥ AKT6	
	♦ 754	
	♣ AT7	

When you play 3NT with 13 points opposite 12, you are likely to have several entries to each hand. With 20 points opposite 5, nearly all the entries will be in one hand.


You may then have to plan the play carefully.



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Y2 VBlue #5 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: South	Board #: 3
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: E / W

	North	
	♠ KJ54	
	♥ K3	
	♦ KT86	
	♣ 532	
West		East
♠ 86		♠ 7
♥ J974		♥ QT52
♦ A32		♦ QJ954
♣ QJT8		♣ 964
	South	
	♠ AQT932	
	♥ A86	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AK7	

There are three main ways of avoiding a loser: finessing, ruffing and discarding. On this deal (where you bid ambitiously to a high level contract) you need to save yourself two losers and will have to use two of the three methods.

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
P	3♠	P	6♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♣ Q

We start with three losers in our contract of 6♠.

We avoid a Heart loser by **trumping** it in dummy. It is not possible to ruff a Club, since both dummy and our hand contain three Clubs. Instead we had to use a different method of avoiding a loser – **dumping** it. We lead a Diamond towards the King, hoping to establish that card if West held the ♦A.


It makes no difference whether West plays the ♦A on the first round. If he does, we would enjoy a Club discard on the established ♦K. If West instead plays low on the first round of Diamonds, we would not lose a Diamond trick and could afford to lose a Club.



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Y2 VBlue #5 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: West	Board #: 4
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: All

	North	
	♠ KT52	
	♥ A73	
	♦ 98	
	♣ J873	
West		East
♠ 84		♠ J7
♥ T8		♥ QJ954
♦ AKJ63		♦ T542
♣ QT52		♣ 96
	South	
	♠ AQ963	
	♥ K62	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ AK4	

As often happens, you play in a major-suit game and start with four potential losers.

You must look for a plan that will allow you to reduce the number of losers to the three that you can afford.

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	1♠
P	2♠	P	4♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♦ A

We play in 4♠ as South and are faced with a dummy where there are wasted values (it is rarely good news to have a mutual shortage, for example – here we both have a doubleton Diamond).

We can see four potential losers: Two Diamonds, one Heart and a Club. This is another example of a deal where we have to establish a discard.

If dummy had held ♣Q J 8 3, we would have started with a surplus Club winner and it would have been easy to draw trumps and then dump a loser on the fourth round of Clubs. Here, on this layout, we have to do some work to create the surplus Club winner.


As mentioned during the play, there are various lies of the Club suit that would allow us to do this.



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Y2 VBlue #5 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6H
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 5
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S

	North	
	♠ Q4	
	♥ J82	
	♦ J6	
	♣ AK8542	
West		East
♠ K865		♠ JT97
♥ 743		♥ 95
♦ KQT2		♦ 9843
♣ Q9		♣ JT3
	South	
	♠ A32	
	♥ AKQT6	
	♦ A75	
	♣ 76	

You push the boat out on this deal, bidding more forwardly than you normally do. (Perhaps I'm wrong and you always take an optimistic view during the auction!)

Anyway, you often have to back up such bidding with a careful effort in the play. Can you do it?

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	P	2♥
P	3♥	P	4NT
P	5♦	P	6♥
P	P	P	

Lead: ♦ K

We blast our way into 6♥ after North opens the bidding and supports our suit.

When dummy goes down, though, there are nowhere near twelve available tricks.

We have plenty to do in this slam contract. We have to keep a trump entry (the ♥J) to dummy, to establish the Clubs with a ruff, also we must remember to ruff the third round of Clubs with a high trump.


A lot of effort, yes, but it is rewarded with a very big score at the end!



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A series of six declarer-play deals, intended for V-Blue Year 2. SA version.

Y2 VBlue #5 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 6
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: E / W

	North	
	♠ AT52	
	♥ K73	
	♦ 987	
	♣ JT8	
West		East
♠ 8		♠ 743
♥ QJT94		♥ A5
♦ J632		♦ QT54
♣ 542		♣ A976
	South	
	♠ KQJ96	
	♥ 862	
	♦ AK	
	♣ KQ3	

Many contracts depend on **reading the cards**. What does that mean? It means that you judge (or sometimes just guess) how the defenders' cards lie.

It is not too difficult on this deal, provided you stop to think, but many inexperienced players would go down unnecessarily.

Don't worry if turns out that you would have been one of them. Once you have seen the situation, you will always get it right in the future!

West	North	East	South
-	-	P	1♠
P	2♠	P	4♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♥ Q

We reach 4♠ in quick time and West leads the ♥Q. This lead is bad news for we as it means that the ♥A is poised over the ♥K, ready to chop off His Majesty's head. What can we do to avoid three Heart losers and the ♠A?

Whenever dummy holds the King of the suit that has been led (against a suit contract), think very carefully before playing it at trick one. Defenders do not – or at any rate should not – underlead Aces against a suit contract.

Provided we play correctly on the first two tricks, and West does not hold the ♠A as an entry to give his partner a Heart ruff, we will make the contract.