



Clone of 1982; A series of six declarer-play deals, intended for V-Blue Year 2. SA version.

Y2 VBlue #23 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6H
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 1
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: None

West ♠ QT8753 ♥ 942 ♦ 7 ♣ J75		East ♠ 962 ♥ T3 ♦ QJT8 ♣ QT92
North ♠ J4 ♥ 765 ♦ A9532 ♣ A63		
South ♠ AK ♥ AKQJ8 ♦ K64 ♣ K84		

This set of six deals has been written by our British guest David Bird. There is no theme to these deals, just enjoy them as they come.

Hand 1: After this deal was played, it was noticed that a particular opening lead would have defeated the contract.

Don't worry. West will not find the killing lead when you play the hand. Try to take advantage of it!

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

Lead: ♦ 7

Sitting South, we show a minimum 2♣ opening bid. North realizes that his two Aces entitle him to bid a small slam after our strong bidding.

West makes the natural lead of his singleton Diamond. We win with the ♦K, saving the ♦A as an entry to the weaker hand.

We draw trumps in three rounds and must now set up the Diamond suit to provide a discard for the possible Club loser. We lead a second round of Diamonds and duck in the dummy (saving the ♦A as an entry on the third round of Diamonds). East wins and shifts to a Club.

We must win this in our hand with the ♠K. We cross to the ♦A and ruff a Diamond in our hand. The ♦9 is now good. We cross to the ♣A and play the ♦9, throwing our Club loser. The slam is made.

The main lesson of the deal is that it is often a good idea to duck an early round of a suit that we are planning to establish. In this way, we preserve dummy's honor as an entry on a subsequent round of the suit.

Postscript.

Can you see now, with hindsight, which opening lead would have beaten the slam? There was no way that West could find it, but a Club lead would have been successful. It would knock out the ♠K and allow East to play another Club to remove the ♣A when a Diamond was ducked. We could not then reach the thirteenth Diamond for a discard.



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Y2 VBlue #23 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4H
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 2
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S

West ♠ 854 ♥ T ♦ 7632 ♣ AKQ75		East ♠ T72 ♥ J874 ♦ KQT8 ♣ 92
North ♠ QJ96 ♥ A52 ♦ A95 ♣ T63		
South ♠ AK3 ♥ KQ963 ♦ J4 ♣ J84		

Bridge players hate having to make a guess.

See if you can spare yourself such aggravation on this deal.

West	North	East	South
-	-	P	1♥
P	1♠	P	1NT
P	3♥	P	4♥
P	P	P	

Lead: ♣ A

West cashes three Club winners against our contract of 4♥. He shifts to a Diamond, won with the ♦A, and we must now score the remaining tricks. We can eventually discard our Diamond loser on the fourth round of Spades, so we just need to pick up the trump suit without losing a trick.

All will be easy if trumps break 3-2. If they break 4-1 instead, we can make the contract only when West holds a singleton ♥J or ♥10. To discover if this is the case, we should play the ♥K on the first round. When the ♥10 drops from West, we cross to the ♥A, confirming that West's ♥10 was a singleton. We then take the *marked finesse* of the ♥9, draw the last trump and run four rounds of Spades, discarding our Diamond loser.

Suppose we made the mistake of cashing the ♥A on the first round, the ♥10 dropping from West. We would then have to guess whether to finesse. If we finessed the ♥9, we would go down when West had started with ♥J 10 or ♥J 10 x.


If we guessed to cross to the ♥K next, we would have no convenient entry to dummy to take the necessary finesse of the ♥9. (If we led the ♠3 to the ♠J to finesse in Hearts, we would block the Spade suit).



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Y2 VBlue #23 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: South	Board #: 3
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: E / W

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

North		East	
♠ T2		♠ 985	
♥ T8532		♥ Q4	
♦ A832		♦ T974	
♣ 95		♣ K843	
West		East	
♠ 4		♠ 985	
♥ KJ76		♥ Q4	
♦ J65		♦ T974	
♣ QJT76		♣ K843	
South			
♠ AKQJ763			
♥ A9			
♦ KQ			
♣ A2			

Lead: ♣ Q

West leads the ♣Q against our contract of 6♠. We have a potential loser in both Hearts and Clubs. One of these losers can be discarded on the ♦A.

We win the Club lead with the ♣A and draw one round of trumps with the ♠A. We are planning to cross to dummy with the precious ♠10. Before we do this, we must unblock the two Diamond honors in our hand.

We play the ♦K and ♦Q. Then we cross to the ♠10 and play the ♦A, choosing to throw our Club loser. Finally we return to our hand with a Club ruff to draw East's last trump.

We can then claim the contract. Excellent!

Most play hands should be in fairly high contracts, as I see it.

Who wants to exert themselves in a 2♦ contract? Not me, anyway.



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Y2 VBlue #23 David's Deals SA

Date: 03/07/2016

Dealer: West


[Play this hand online!](#)

Contract: 4H

By: South

Board #: 4

Vulnerable: All

		North				
		♠ QJ4				
		♥ Q762				
		♦ AKQ5				
		♣ J6				
West	♠	T853				
	♥	AJ				
	♦	T7				
	♣	AKT75				
		South		East		
		♠ AK7		♠ 962		
		♥ K854		♥ T93		
		♦ 943		♦ J862		
		♣ 843		♣ Q92		

Sometimes when you are planning the play, you realize that the cards will have to lie in a certain way for the contract to be made.

You must then play the hand on the assumption that the cards do indeed lie that way.

West	North	East	South
1♣	X	P	2♥
P	4♥	P	P
P			

Lead: ♣ A

West opens 1♣ and leads the ♣A against our eventual contract of 4♥. He continues with two more rounds of Clubs and we ruff the third round low in the dummy, the ♣Q appearing from East.

We can afford to lose only one trump trick. This will only be possible if a defender holds a doubleton Ace of trumps. This will surely be West because he opened the bidding and there are only 15 points missing. Also, East has already shown up with the ♣Q,

We cross to our hand (with a Spade) so that we can make the first trump lead through West's ♥A. Dummy's ♥Q wins and we duck the next round of trumps (playing low from the South hand). West ruefully produces the ♥A and the remaining tricks are ours.



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Y2 VBlue #23 David's Deals SA

Date: 03/07/2016

Dealer: North


[Play this hand online!](#)

Contract: 4S

By: South

Board #: 5

Vulnerable: N / S

	North	
	♠ A63	
	♥ 952	
	♦ 865	
	♣ A963	
West		East
♠ 8		♠ KT97
♥ JT8		♥ 7643
♦ QJT974		♦ 32
♣ KQJ		♣ T75
	South	
	♠ QJ542	
	♥ AKQ	
	♦ AK	
	♣ 842	

If you can give yourself the maximum chance on most of the deals that you play, you will end up as a winner. On many hands the second-best play will work, because a suit breaks favorably.

Sometimes, as on this deal, you need to play the contract accurately to succeed against a less friendly lie of the cards.

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

Lead: ♣ K

We bid to 4♠ after West has made a cheeky non-vulnerable overcall of 2♦ and West leads the ♣K. We win with the ♣A and must look for the best play in the trump suit, hoping to restrict our losses there to just one trick.

We should lead towards the ♠Q J, hoping that East holds the ♠K. What is more, we must not cash the ♠A first. If East happens to hold four trumps including the ♠K, we'd need to lead trumps a second time towards our hand.


We lead to the ♠Q and this wins the trick. We return to the ♠A, West showing out, and are then in dummy to lead towards the ♠J. We escape for one trump loser and make the contract.

Both the inferior plays (cashing the ♠A on the first round, or crossing to South hand to lead the ♠Q) would result in defeat when the cards lie as in the actual layout. When trumps break 3-2 any play will succeed. (If West held four trumps including the King, no play would succeed).



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Y2 VBlue #23 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 6
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: E / W

North			
♠ A63			
♥ A87			
♦ K654			
♣ KQ6			
West		East	
♠ T85		♠ 42	
♥ T94		♥ KQJ52	
♦ JT72		♦ AQ	
♣ T72		♣ 9853	
South			
♠ KQJ97			
♥ 63			
♦ 983			
♣ AJ4			

Some declarers seem to be able to see into the defenders' hands, as if by magic.

Take the declarer's cards on this last deal and see if you can wave your magic wand appropriately.

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

Lead: ♥ T

East opens 1♥, we overcall 1♠ and partner raises us to game. As the cards lie 3NT would have been an easier contract but partner cannot be blamed for supporting our suit.

West leads the ♥10 against our 4♠ contract. We win with dummy's ♥A and draw trumps in three rounds. We need to avoid the loss of three Diamond tricks and East's opening bid surely marks him with the ♦A. Leading towards the ♦K is doomed to failure. What else could we try?

Maybe East holds only two Diamonds? In that case his ♦A would fall on the second round and dummy's ♦K would be good. It may not seem particularly likely, but some chance is better than none.

We duck the first round of Diamonds. When East wins with the ♦Q and plays two top Hearts, we ruff the third round. We duck another Diamond and East's ♦A appears. Hurray! The contract is ours.