



Clone of 869; A series of six declarer-play deals, intended for V-Blue Year 2. SA version.

Y2 VBlue #17 David's Deals SA

Date: 03/07/2016

Dealer: North


[Play this hand online!](#)

Contract: 6H

By: South

Board #: 1

Vulnerable: None

North			
♠ A65			
♥ J2			
♦ JT42			
♣ AK32			
West		East	
♠ T984		♠ QJ2	
♥ 976		♥ 83	
♦ KQ95		♦ 8763	
♣ J9		♣ QT54	
South			
♠ K73			
♥ AKQT54			
♦ A			
♣ 876			

This set of six deals is by David Bird, from England. There is no theme to these deals – enjoy them as they come...

Hand 1. Sometimes it is a worthwhile transaction to deliberately give a trick away.

Why is it a good idea? Because it allows you to make the contract!

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	P	1♥
P	1NT	P	6♥
P	P	P	

Lead: ♦ K

We bid boldly to a small slam in Hearts. Rightly or wrongly, West leads the ♦K. We win with the ♦A and can see a potential loser in both Spades and Clubs.

One way to save a trick would be to find a 3-3 Club break. We could then establish the thirteenth Club for a Spade discard but this relies on a lucky break. A better idea is to draw trumps and then lead the ♦J, discarding one of our black-suit losers. West is welcome to win the trick. Dummy's ♦10 will then be established and we use it to ditch our other loser.

This technique is known as a *loser-on-loser play*. We throw a low Spade (one loser) on the ♦J (another loser). So far it is a clean exchange of one trick for another. The gain comes when the ♦10 is established in the process. We could then discard our Club loser too.


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Y2 VBlue #17 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 2
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S

West ♠ 74 ♥ Q842 ♦ QT5 ♣ J873		East ♠ 85 ♥ J973 ♦ AJ83 ♣ Q92
North ♠ A63 ♥ K6 ♦ K9762 ♣ AT5		
South ♠ KQJT92 ♥ AT5 ♦ 4 ♣ K64		

Good declarers are not happy with spotting one chance to make a contract.

They are always on the look-out to combine more than one chance.

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

Lead: ♠ 4

We reach 6♠ after overbidding the South cards and West leads a trump.

We can ruff our Heart loser in dummy (in the *short trump hand*). We expect to lose a Diamond and must make plans for our Club loser. One obvious chance is that the ♦A lies with West. In that case we can lead towards the ♦K and establish that card for a Club discard.

A second (almost hidden) chance is that Diamonds break 4-3 and we can set up the thirteenth Diamond for a Club discard. This will require a good number of entries to dummy. It is therefore essential that we win the trump lead in our hand and play a Diamond immediately.

The ♦K loses to East's ♦A but we have enough entries to set up the ♦9 and then discard our losing Club.


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Date: 03/07/2016

Dealer: South


[Play this hand online!](#)

Contract: 4S

By: South

Board #: 3

Vulnerable: E / W

	North	
	♠ Q84	
	♥ K53	
	♦ QJ5	
	♣ A943	
West		East
♠ T53		♠ K9
♥ QJT4		♥ A96
♦ 76		♦ K843
♣ QT72		♣ J865
	South	
	♠ AJ762	
	♥ 872	
	♦ AT92	
	♣ K	

The cards will have to lie in a particular way for you to make this contract.

It would be a shame to go down when they do lie favorably!

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	3♠	P	4♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♥ Q

We reach a poor 4♠ as South (after a slight bidding understanding) and the defenders score the first three tricks in Hearts before East shifts to a Club.

If we win with the ♠K in our hand, there would be no way to enter dummy to take one of the finesses we need. We therefore overtake with the ♠A.


The best chance of picking up the Spades is to lead a low card, hoping that East holds a doubleton ♠K. If we mistakenly lead the ♠Q, East would cover with the ♠K. We could win with the ♠A and play the ♠J, but would then lose the third round of the suit.

We finesse the ♠J successfully, cash the ♠A and return to dummy with the ♠Q. We then lead the ♦Q and pick up four Diamond tricks for the contract.



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Y2 VBlue #17 David's Deals SA	Contract: 3N
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: West	Board #: 4
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: All

		North			
		♠ A863			
		♥ AKJ			
		♦ A984			
		♣ Q4			
West	♠ QJT92		East	♠ 54	
	♥ T76			♥ Q832	
	♦ K5			♦ QJ763	
	♣ A93			♣ 52	
		South			
		♠ K7			
		♥ 954			
		♦ T2			
		♣ KJT876			

What is the most important part about playing a bridge contract? Remembering to thank partner for the dummy? Er, well, not really.

Drawing trumps straight away, if you are in a suit contract? That can be important, yes, but the answer I had in mind was "making a plan before you start to play".

It was the custom of the original declarer on this deal to wait until a contract had gone wrong before he started to make a plan.

West	North	East	South
P	1♦	P	1NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

Lead: ♠ Q

West leads the ♠Q against our contract of 3NT. They say that we should 'make a plan before playing the first card from dummy'. This deal is a good example of why that is such excellent advice. If we do not play the ♠A from dummy, we'd go down.

We would then have to win with the ♠K, either on the first round or the second round. West would hold up the ♣A until the second round and we would make only one Club trick! That's what happened to the original declarer. He tried to make a plan at trick three, when it was too late.

Provided we make the right play on the first trick, the rest of the play is easy. We end up with an overtrick.



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Y2 VBlue #17 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6H
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 5
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S

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

Lead: ♦ A

The defenders play two rounds of Diamonds against our small slam in Hearts.

One obvious chance of making the slam is to finesse against the ♠K. A second (additional) chance is that Clubs may break 3-3. In that case we could set up the suit and discard the ♠J and ♠2 on the two good Clubs.

We ruff the second Diamond and draw trumps with the ♥K and ♥Q. We continue with the ♠K and ♠A, ruffing the third round of the suit. When Clubs break 3-3, we cross to the ♥A and discard our two potential Spade losers on the good Clubs.

If Clubs had not broken 3-3, we would have crossed to the ♥A and led the ♠Q in the hope that East held the ♠K.

<p>North</p> <p>♠ QT6</p> <p>♥ A32</p> <p>♦ Q9</p> <p>♣ A9754</p>		<p>East</p> <p>♠ 9853</p> <p>♥ 9</p> <p>♦ K8763</p> <p>♣ QT3</p>	
<p>West</p> <p>♠ K74</p> <p>♥ 84</p> <p>♦ AT542</p> <p>♣ J82</p>		<p>South</p> <p>♠ AJ2</p> <p>♥ KQJT765</p> <p>♦ J</p> <p>♣ K6</p>	

Some bright young sparks might not agree with your bidding on this deal.

Point out to them what a good contract you have reached!



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Y2 VBlue #17 David's Deals SA

Date: 03/07/2016

Dealer: East

[Play this hand online!](#)

Contract: 4S

By: South

Board #: 6

Vulnerable: E / W


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

Lead: ♣ T

East opens 1♣ and we bid a highly pre-emptive 4♠, winning the auction.

West leads the ♣10, overtaken by East's ♣J, and we win with the ♣A. We have four minor-suit losers and must aim to discard one of them on dummy's Hearts.

We draw trumps with the Ace and King, cross to the ♥A and lead the ♥Q. We are taking a **ruffing finesse** through East. He is favorite to hold the ♥K because he opened the bidding. When East covers with the ♥K, we ruff. We then return to dummy with the ♠J and discard a minor-suit loser (any minor-suit loser will do) on the established ♥J.

North			
♠ J42			
♥ AQJ3			
♦ 982			
♣ 975			
West		East	
♠ 97		♠ 3	
♥ 8642		♥ KT95	
♦ AJT54		♦ KQ7	
♣ T2		♣ KQJ83	
South			
♠ AKQT865			
♥ 7			
♦ 63			
♣ A64			

On this deal you bid as high as you dare as quickly as you can.

Can you match your bold bidding with accurate card-play?