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Clone of series 1964; A series of six declarer-play deals, intended for V-Blue Year 2. SA version.

Y2 VBlue #21 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4S
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 1
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: None

North

♠ J964
♥ T42
♦ Q87
♣ A76

West

♠ 532
♥ KJ953
♦ T632
♣ 9



East

♠ T
♥ Q86
♦ A94
♣ KJ8532

South

♠ AKQ87
♥ A7
♦ KJ5
♣ QT4

This set of six deals is by our guest author, Britain's David Bird.

Hand 1: The original declarer fared poorly on this deal.

See if you can do better!

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

Lead: ♣ 9

We reach game in Spades after a brief auction of 1♠ – 2♠ – 4♠ and West leads the ♣9. Dummy is reasonable; four trumps and 7 points.

This is a reassuring lead because it means that East must hold the ♠K. What could possibly go wrong?

The original declarer provided the answer to this! He played low from dummy and East won with the ♠K. East returned the ♣2 (his lowest Club to indicate that he would like a return in the lower remaining side suit, should West ruff the second round of Clubs). West ruffed, returned a Diamond to the Ace and scored a second Club ruff. Declarer had to lose a Heart trick eventually and that was two down.

Of course, you didn't do this! We make the contract by winning the first trick in dummy and drawing trumps. At a later stage we lead towards the ♠Q to set up our tenth trick.

When drawing trumps we do so by cashing the Ace, King and Queen, so that the ♠J remains as an entry to dummy, allowing us to lead a Club towards our hand.



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Y2 VBlue #21 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	1NT
P	2♣	P	2♠
P	3NT	P	P
P			


Lead: ♣ K

We reach 3NT after a Stayman auction and West leads the ♣K. We can count seven *top tricks* so need two more for the contract.

We decide to follow the normal procedure of *holding up* an Ace for two rounds. After winning the third round of Clubs, we plan to finesse Hearts into the **safe** East hand. Since we need three Heart tricks if the Heart finesse fails, we must throw a Diamond from dummy rather than a Heart on the third round of Clubs.

When we run the ♥Q, East wins with the ♥K and shifts to a Diamond. We can count nine top tricks now, so it would be foolish to risk defeat by finessing in Diamonds.

We rise with the ♦A and claim the contract.

	North	
	♠ A5	
	♥ AJT5	
	♦ QJT42	
	♣ 86	
West		East
♠ 973		♠ T842
♥ 974		♥ K862
♦ K3		♦ 85
♣ KQJT5		♣ 742
	South	
	♠ KQJ6	
	♥ Q3	
	♦ A976	
	♣ A93	

When you are playing in 3NT it is often quite obvious which suit you should play in your search for the extra tricks that you need.

On this deal you have a choice of two suits.

Which horse will you place your bet on?



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Y2 VBlue #21 David's Deals SA	Contract: 6D
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: South	Board #: 3
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: E / W

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

Lead: ♦ 4

North

♠ 95
♥ AK43
♦ Q875
♣ A85

West

♠ KJ742
♥ J95
♦ 64
♣ J73



East

♠ T863
♥ QT6
♦ T
♣ QT964

South

♠ AQ
♥ 872
♦ AKJ932
♣ K2

There are two chances for your contract on this deal.

You must play well to take advantage of both of them.

We open 1♦ and rebid 3♦ after a 1♥ response. This bid classically shows a good six-card suit and around 16 to 17 points. Somewhat stuck for a bid now North launches into Blackwood and bids a slam over our 5♥ response. West leads a trump against our small slam.

We win and draw the remaining trump. What next?

If Hearts break 3-3, we'd be able to discard the ♠Q on the thirteenth Heart and avoid having to take the Spade finesse. Suppose we duck a round of Hearts, planning to play the ♥A and ♥K later to see if the suit breaks 3-3. That's no good! East may win and shift to a Spade, forcing us to guess whether to finesse the ♠Q before we know whether the Hearts are breaking evenly.

Instead we should play Ace, King and another Heart. East wins the third Heart and duly plays a Spade. However, we now know that Hearts were 3-3. We rise with the ♠A and cross to dummy to discard the ♠Q on dummy's good Heart.



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Y2 VBlue #21 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4H
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: West	Board #: 4
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: All

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

Lead: ♥ 3

West leads a trump against our rapidly bid 4♥.

We see that we have two potential losers in each of the minor suits. We expect to lose two Diamond tricks but we should be able to avoid a second Club loser by ruffing a Club in the dummy.

We cannot afford to draw a second round of trumps at this point because the defenders might then be able to remove dummy's last trump when we duck a round of Clubs. Instead we play the Ace, King and another Club immediately. West wins and returns another trump. We win in our hand and lead our last Club, ruffing with dummy's ♥K. (This was the red King's *'purpose in life'* on this particular deal.)

We now lose only one Club trick, along with two Diamonds, and make the contract.

North

♠ A843
♥ K72
♦ T65
♣ 652

West

♠ KJT2
♥ 63
♦ J74
♣ QT73



East

♠ Q965
♥ 985
♦ KQ82
♣ J8

South

♠ 7
♥ AQJT4
♦ A93
♣ AK94

It has always annoyed me when an object has just one purpose in life and fails to achieve it. For example, a jug's purpose is to pour liquid neatly into a glass or some other receptacle. If some of the liquid spills onto the table cloth, then the jug has failed dismally.


On this deal the King of trumps has a purpose in life. Make sure that it achieves this purpose!



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Y2 VBlue #21 David's Deals SA	Contract: 3N
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 5
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: N / S

	North	
	♠ 84	
	♥ 72	
	♦ KT9652	
	♣ 652	
West		East
♠ QJT53		♠ K962
♥ J6		♥ QT853
♦ Q7		♦ 84
♣ QT97		♣ J8
	South	
	♠ A7	
	♥ AK94	
	♦ AJ3	
	♣ AK43	

On this deal the dummy will go down with just one useful asset.

Make the most of it!

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

Lead: ♠ Q

We pick up a lovely hand here – a whole 23 points. We open 2♣ and rebid 3NT and partner has ample to raise that to 3NT. The defenders, though, hit our weak spot, by leading Spades.

We win the second round of Spades and see that we will have to score several Diamond tricks to make the contract.

We lead the ♦A on the first round of Diamonds, the **high** card from the **shorter** holding. Both defenders follow low. On the second round we lead the ♦J, again leading the *high card from the shorter holding*. West's ♦Q appears, we are happy to see, and we win with the ♦K. Because we kept the ♦3 as the last Diamond in our hand, dummy's ♦10 now wins the third round and we remain in dummy to score three more Diamond tricks.

We score two overtricks, West keeping his Clubs to stop us from scoring an extra trick in that suit.

What would have happened had we led the ♦A and then the ♦3? We would have blocked the Diamonds and gone down!



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Y2 VBlue #21 David's Deals SA	Contract: 4H
Date: 03/07/2016	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 6
Play this hand online!	Vulnerable: E / W

North

♠ 952
♥ 8743
♦ 875
♣ J85

West

♠ AKQ7
♥ 95
♦ J64
♣ QT73



East

♠ T864
♥ 2
♦ T932
♣ A964

South

♠ J3
♥ AKQJT6
♦ AKQ
♣ K2

Your partner picks up an exceptionally weak hand on this deal, but it turns out to be rather more valuable than he expects.

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

Lead: ♠ A

We have another magnificent hand, another 2♣ opening bid. Partner, though, holds nothing and he does well to tell us that in the auction, dampening any thoughts we might have held about a slam.

Against 4♥ West leads out the three top Spades. What is our plan?

The red suits are both solid, so we must aim to avoid losing two Club tricks. This can only be done by leading towards the ♣K, hoping East holds the ♣A. However, we will need an entry to dummy to do this.

The only possible entry to dummy is in the trump suit. We must therefore ruff the third round of Spades with the ♥10, retaining the invaluable ♥6.

We draw trumps with the Ace and King. Next we might as well cash the three top Diamonds. Finally, we lead our carefully preserved ♥6 to dummy's ♥7, reaching the dummy. We lead a Club towards the ♣K and luck is with us. The King wins and the contract is ours.