

Tidbit 3

Get the kiddies off the street unless there is something to ruff first

Interpretation: The “kiddies” are the small trumps residing in the defenders’ hands. “Get the kiddies off the street” means that declarer should draw trumps as soon as they get on lead so as to ensure that the defenders’ lowly trumps are not given the chance to ruff declarer’s side suit winners. This is the norm.

“Unless there is something to ruff first” usually concerns those boards where declarer needs to first of all trump losers in her hand with dummy’s trumps. This requires dummy to have a shortage in that side suit (almost always at most a doubleton). If declarer draws trumps immediately dummy may not be left with enough trumps to do this job.

Example:

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------|---|----|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>♠A8 Dir: North Vul: All</p> <p>♥AKJ2 ♦1075 ♣Q832</p> <p>♠Q54 ♥10875 ♦83 ♣AJ105</p> <p>14 7 13 6</p> | <p>North 13 South</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>W</td><td>North</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>♠KJ10762 ♥Q4 ♦AK42 ♣9</p> <p>♠93 ♥963 ♦QJ96 ♣K764</p> | W | North | E | 13 | | | S | | | <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 1 - - - S 1 - - - E - - 4 1 W - - 4 2</p> |
| W | North | E | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | |

North opens 1C, East overcalls 1S and ends in an ambitious contract of 4S. South leads the 4C. East wins in dummy with the AC and plays AD and KD and trumps a diamond before returning to hand with a club ruff to trump the last diamond with the QS. North can over-trump with the AS but East will now make 10 tricks whereas she would have lost AS, 2 x hearts and a diamond had she drawn trumps immediately.

Another less common type of trump hand where it may be necessary to do some other work before drawing the defenders’ trumps is when declarer has a long side suit to set up.

Exercise:

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>♠Q1065 Dir: South Vul: E/W</p> <p>♥84 ♦Q105 ♣K863</p> <p>♠9872 ♥K1052 ♦8 ♣A752</p> <p>7 16 10</p> | <p>North 3 South</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>W</td><td>North</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>♠AKJ3 ♥J ♦AK97632 ♣10</p> <p>♠4 ♥AQ9763 ♦J4 ♣QJ94</p> | W | North | E | 3 | | | S | | | <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - - - - S - - - - E - 4 1 5 2 W - 4 1 5 2</p> |
| W | North | E | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | |

East is in 4S and wins the QC with the AC in dummy. To make the contract, East has to set up the diamond suit. See if you can make the contract even though North has 4 x trumps.

Note: Sometimes declarers tend to trump losers in the hand which has the longer trump suit. Unless this can be done several times, it usually does not yield any additional tricks than if trumps were drawn in the first place.

Answers to Exercise Tidbit #2:

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|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>Dir: South Vul: None</p> | <p>♠Q73 ♥KJ ♦10962 ♣K942</p> | <p>♠KJ105 ♥A97652 ♦8 ♣A7</p> | <p>North 27 South</p> | <p>♠A9 ♥Q1084 ♦A753 ♣Q85</p> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|

The only hope for West, the declarer, to avoid a club loser is to discard 2 x clubs from dummy. This can be done by finessing the 9S in dummy, playing the AS returning to hand, playing the KS dropping the QS in North's hand and discarding two of the clubs in dummy on the KS and JS and finally ruffing the 7C in dummy.