

13. More reasons for declarer to not start with trumps

Sometimes you need to delay drawing trumps in order to take a few discards, or else to ruff a few losers first. There are plenty more situations where it is wrong for declarer to start with the trump suit. Here are some of them..

You are in a contract of 4 hearts and West leads her top diamond. Defenders take the first three tricks in diamonds, and switch to a trump. What now? You have 3 club losers staring you in the face, but you can't afford any more (Hint: don't forget the basics of how to develop a plan!)

	♠ A 5 4 2	
	♥ 10 8 7 2	
	♦ 8 6 5 3	
	♣ 9	
♠ K J 7 3		♠ Q 10 9 8
♥ 4 3		♥ 6 5
♦ K Q J 10		♦ A 4
♣ J 5 3		♣ K Q 10 7 6
	♠ 6	
	♥ A K Q J 9	
	♦ 9 7 2	
	♣ A 8 4 2	
4 ♥ by South		

Another example, slightly trickier this time. You are in 6 hearts and West leads the ♠K. What is your plan?

	♠ A 7 5 4 2	
	♥ 10 8 7 2	
	♦ A K 3	
	♣ 9	
♠ K Q J 9 8 3		♠ 10
♥ —		♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 8 6 5		♦ J 4
♣ J 3		♣ K Q 10 7 6
	♠ 6	
	♥ A K Q J 9	
	♦ 9 7 2	
	♣ A 8 4 2	
6 ♥ by South		

You get to a 6 spade contract and West starts with his two top diamonds. You ruff the second one, and you can't afford another loser, but you see a club loser in your hand. Can you arrange to ruff it? Can you pray for the clubs to break 3-3? (It looks like nobody is listening to your prayers today.) Can you see somewhere to park it? What are you going to do?

	♠ A J 10	
	♥ 8 5 3	
	♦ 9 6 4 3	
	♣ K 7 6	
♠ 6 3 2		♠ 5 4
♥ J 9 6 2		♥ 10 7 4
♦ A K J 2		♦ Q 10 8 7
♣ J 8		♣ 10 9 5 2
	♠ K Q 9 8 7	
	♥ A K Q	
	♦ 5	
	♣ A Q 4 3	
6 ♠ by South		

