

14. Declarer play at suit contracts - 3: Answers

1. West's bid of 2 hearts strongly suggests a six-card suit, leaving just one heart for East. If West holds the trump ace, he will be able to win the first round of trumps and give his partner a heart ruff. The danger is that your heart ace gets ruffed on the second or third round of hearts. Win the opening lead with the heart ace, in dummy. Your heart king will be safe from a ruff on the second round of that suit.
2. Clearly East is threatening to over ruff if you ruff the third round of diamonds. If you ruff with the ♥K, East can't over ruff, but you will have promoted his ♥J, and your contract will fail. Throw the ♠2 on the third round of diamonds. This is a loser on loser play, and now you will be able to ruff your third spade. You have transferred the ruffing value from diamonds to spades.
3. You can't avoid your trump loser, so to make the slam you need to ruff the two diamond losers. Draw two rounds of trumps, leave the ♠Q out and go about trumping your two diamonds. East can ruff in whenever he chooses, but he can't stop you making 12 tricks. If you try drawing three rounds of trumps, you can only ruff one of your diamonds and you will go down.
4. This one is quite tricky. You have 4 losers, assuming a 3-2 trump split. To reduce the losers to 1, you need to ruff a heart loser and discard 2 other losers on the long diamonds. One solution is to win the first trick with the ♥A and immediately duck a spade. Win the return, now ruff a heart, draw trumps in two rounds and run the diamonds, throwing a heart and a club on the last two diamonds. By giving defenders their trump trick early, you still have control in hearts and clubs.
5. You have to try and ruff both heart losers. So ruff the third heart with the ♣5 and the fourth heart with the ♣K. If you ruff first with the K, you are likely to get over ruffed on the fourth heart.
6. This hand is in contrast to the previous one. Here you need just one winning ruff, so ruff the third round of diamonds with the ♠K. Return to hand and ruff the fourth diamond with the ♠9. If East over ruffs, he is ruffing with a natural trump trick - you still make your slam.
7. Ruff the third round of clubs low, return to hand with a spade ruff and lead your last club. Discard a diamond from dummy on this trick (loser on loser). Now you can ruff a diamond in dummy and make your slam. Another example of a transfer ruff.