

These types of hand come hard to people because they are loathe to chuck Honour cards away. If they just stopped to think that the Honour cards in question are quite possibly losers anyway then they might find it all a happier time.

Heres such a hand

{declarer}	{ dummy }
QJ1065	9876
K3	76
AKQ2	J1098
AQ	K32

The lead is the J clubs.

The losers are : 2 x Spades and 2 x Hrts.

You can't do anything about the Spades so your attention turns to the vulnerable Hrt holding of { K3 ---- 76 }.

Now noone is saying that the K Hrts is *definitely* a loser but it is certainly possible that it is just that. The good bridge player tries to avoid relying on luck and plays as follows :

Trick 1} Ace Cl Trick 2} Q Cl Trick 3} 2 Di to the J Di Trick 4} K cl throwing a Hrt.

The two hands after these first four tricks look like this :

{declarer}	{ dummy }
QJ1065	9876
K	76
AKQ	1098
<i>void</i>	<i>void</i>

If you pause to count your losers now the total is :

2 x Sp and 1 x H ie only three losers and so the contract will be made.

Unsupported honours have to be considered as losers or { at best } as decidedly vulnerable ; when possible such Honour "losers" should be discarded on winners just as if they were small cards.

A last hand. The Honour "losers" have been italicised.

{declarer}	{ dummy }
KQJ103	987654
763	<i>KJ 2</i>
43	<i>K765</i>
AKQ	void

On a club lead our losers are : 1 x Sp + 3 x H + 2 x D ie 6 losers !

The plan is to play the Ace and King and Queen of clubs throwing losers from the dummy. We are going to throw 3 cards only from the dummy. Can you see why it is the three Hrts that we should discard { rather than anything else ?}. We win the Ace clubs { throwing a Hrt} and play the K clubs { throwing a Hrt}. Next we play the Q Cl throwing another Hrt. Our 6 losers have been reduced to 3 losers . Contract made.