

Playing the long suit

One of the joys of being declarer is playing a long suit and watching the opponents squirm .

The contract is 3NT and the lead the Q Sp.

```

(dummy)
  432
  K654
  A65
  K54

  AK5
  A9
  KQJ1098
  J3
(declarer)
  
```

There are 10 easy tricks { ten tricks "on top" } and no difficulty in making our contract. If we could develop any extra tricks it would be right to do that before playing out our long suit but, here , we are just running for home. There is a however a correct order in which to take our tricks .We should play out the long winning suit before touching the other suits. Here we win with the Ace spades and play out all six diamond winners. What good will that do you say ? Well sometimes the opponents discards present you with extra tricks.

Look at the hand from the leaders point of view :-

```

(dummy)
  432
  K654
  A65
  K54

(leader)
QJ109
J832
32
Q76
  
```

After the Q sp ,they have to follow to 2 diamonds and then make *four discards*.

(leader)							
QJ109		J109	J109	J109			
J832	----->	J832	----->	J832	---->	?	?
32		32		3		void	
Q76		Q76		Q76		Q76	
		<i>Trick1</i>		<i>Trick 2</i>		<i>Trick3</i>	<i>Trick 4</i> <i>Trick5</i> <i>Trick 6</i> <i>Trick 7</i>

(over the page some general remarks will be made about *what* to discard but for the moment be aware that discarding on declarer's long suits is no picnic).

NB the declarer only plays the long suit because they are running for home. They play the long suit before taking the other tricks as this keeps the defenders in the dark best.

