

Establishing the long suit in dummy ...in No Trumps

Heres an example of establishing a long suit in the suit contract of 4 Sp.

e.g 4Sp on a Hrt lead

(declarer)	(dummy)
AKxxx	QJxx
Axx	Kx
A2	K6543
xxx	Ax

We win the Hrt lead in hand, draw trumps , play Ace and King diamonds and trump a diamond;now if the diamonds have been established { are "good"} , we return to dummy and play winning diamonds. If the diamonds are not yet established, we continue by returning to dummy and trumping another diamond. Finally one or more diamonds have become "established".

Well what's all that got to do with establishing suits in No Trump contracts you might wonder.Let's look again at the hand above BUT this time we will say that we are in 3NT on the Hrt lead.

(declarer)	(dummy)
AKxxx	QJxx
AKx	xx
32	AK654
xxx	Ax

Surprisingly the play in NTs follows a very similar course to the suit play above.

Trick1) Ace Hrts Trick 2) Ace Diamonds Trick 3) King diamonds

Trick 4) a small diamond *

In other words we play the long suit out hoping eventually that the remaining diamonds will become winners. When we led the small diamond we of course couldn't trump it and so had to lose the lead but when we regain the lead we hope the diamonds have become established.

Heres another example. 3NT on a Hrt lead

(declarer)	(dummy)
Axx	Kxxx
AKx	xx
732	AK654
Axxx	xx

There are only 7 top tricks and the diamonds need to be established to have any real hope of making 3NT.

Win the Hrt lead; play Ace and King of diamonds; now play a small diamond {if we were in a trump contract we would of course trump this diamond lead}; in this No Trump contract we have to let the opponents win this diamond lead. Next time we regain the lead we play out our established diamonds.