

Discarding losers as declarer

Here is a basic hand . Contract 4Sp lead the K Hrts.

{declarer}	{ dummy }
KQJ65	10987
A32	765
2	AKQ
K987	QJ10

There are 4 losers : A sp + Q H + J H + A C

As the defenders will be able to take their 4 winners as soon as they get the lead it is necessary to reduce the number of losers before relinquishing the lead.

{The solution is of course to play the Ace + K + Q Diamonds throwing Hrts and then draw trumps }.

Such hands aren't difficult and it is obvious that the declarer will have to lose two Hrts unless they discard them. { Obvious because the Hrts are low cards}.

Suppose these were the hands though and you got the lead of the Q Clubs.

{declarer}	{ dummy }
QJ10654	9876
K32	765
2	AKQ
AQ5	K32

You count your losers as :

2 x spade 3 x Hearts

It goes somewhat against the grain to think of the K Hrts as a loser { or potential loser} but it is of course . As long as you have three Hrts in each hand you have potentially three losers.

The correct line is to :

Trick 1} win Ace Cl Trick 2} Play Ace D Trick 3} Play K D *discarding a Hrt*

Trick 4} Play Q D *disacrding a Hrt*

and then draw trumps.

We will be looking at hands where the losers that we wish to avoid losing are not low cards but are unsupported Honours e.g Kx or Kxx or Qxx or (even) KJx

Another example:

{declarer}	{ dummy }	The losers are : 1 x Sp and 3 x H
KJ1064	Q876	Let us say that you get a Club lead.
Q32	765	This is your chance ! {Had there been a Hrt lead we
87	AKQ	would have had problems }. On the C lead we play
AQJ	K32	three rounds of Diamonds discarding a losing H.