

These loser on loser plays crop up all over the place.

Try this one --- you are in 4Sp and right hand opponent had overcalled in Diamonds. The Ace of diamonds is led and then another one.

(declarer)	(dummy)
AK854	Q102
K76	A832
32	J104
Q76	AK3

Trick 1 : left hand opponent leads the Ace Diamonds : right hand opponent plays the 9
Trick 2 : left hand opponent leads the 2 Diamonds : right hand opponent plays the Q
Trick 3: right hand opponent leads the K Diamonds....

Now if you trump this high then yes , you will win *this* trick. The trouble is if you play a high trump now you wont have enough high trumps to draw the opponents trumps later. You are quite likely to lose Two Diamond trick AND One Spade trick AND One Heart trick.

The solution is again to *throw a loser on a loser*.

You knew that you were always going to lose a Hrt at some point { it was inevitable }.

So rather than trump the led Diamond throw the losing Hrt on it.

The opponents have won the first three diamond tricks but they wont win anymore tricks.

(If they lead a Hrt or Club we win the lead; if another diamond is led then we can trump in dummy and not have to waste our high trumps).

Lets play the next 4Sp and before a card is led decide how many losers we have.

(declarer)	(dummy)
AQ85	K1072
K76	AQ32
932	87
976	AK2

Losers

spades : nil

hearts : nil

diamonds : three

clubs : one

Four losers is of course too many . We might look ahead and plan on drawing trumps then playing three rounds of diamonds and trumping the third diamond in dummy. That would reduce our losers to three losers. On a Hrt or Club lead that plan would work fine.

The plan has to change on the Ace diamond lead followed by the King diamonds (with the right hand opponent playing a Hi-lo). A third diamond is led and we are in some difficulties.... . Well we have seen earlier that trumping high is a pretty desperate measure; is there a loser that we can throw on this losing diamond ? The 2 of Clubs was always going to lose at some point so why not lose it now ? At the third trick we make the fine play of *throwing a loser on a loser* and play the 2 Clubs on the third diamond.

We lose only 3 tricks. Well played sir (or madam).

