

Third player plays high ?

This is a rule for DEFENDERS and comes from whist. The original idea was that after your partner had led and the next player had played you would play your highest card to attempt to win the trick. Well bridge isn't whist and the obvious difference is that there is a *dummy* whose cards you can see .

In fact it is often going to be the case that depending on what you can see in the dummy you will not play your highest card at all.

{ We are going to come up with a new rule to supplement third player plays high later. }

First of all some examples of playing *third player plays high* which work satisfactorily. We are going to look exclusively at suit contracts.

The three leads partner will make at suit contracts are :-
low from an honour : top of nothing : top of touching honours.

Let us see how *third player plays high* works.

Low from an Honour

	<u>Q</u> 97	
<u>3</u>	----- -----	<u>K</u> 1085
	A62	

The dummy plays the Q and we head it with the K (*third player plays high*). Our King will no doubt lose to declarer's Ace BUT we have promoted a trick for partner's Jack. If we had not played our King then dummy's Queen would have made and so would declarer's Ace.

Top of nothing

	<u>Q</u> 73	
<u>9</u>	----- -----	<u>K</u> 1065
	A J2	

This example is perhaps not so persuasive as the previous. We again play our King on dummy's Queen (*third player plays high*); the declarer will if it is true play their Ace and later make the Jack BUT we have at least prevented declarer making their Q + A + J. There is also the chance that our 10 will make a trick in its own right in due course.

Top of touching honours

	<u>Q</u> 73	
<u>J</u>	----- -----	<u>K</u> 56
	A42	

The J has been led and the Q from dummy. We play the K (*third player plays high*) and declarer wins with the Ace. We have prevented declarer winning both the Q + A and have no doubt promoted a trick for partner's 10.

We have played well. Another way of describing what we did would be to say that *whenever an honour was played from dummy we beat it with a higher honour.*