

In a trump contract declarer may choose to draw trumps and then keep playing them

We lead the K Hrts against 4Sp and although dummy wins with the Ace Hrts we feel we are well placed as our Q and J Hrts are now the boss cards in that suit.

	(dummy)
	8765
(you)	A32
void	Q87
KQJ10	K82
K654	
Q7653	

The declarer wins at trick 1 with the Ace Hrts and plays 5 x rounds of spades. Well ideally we will make sure that none of our "vulnerable" honours are left unprotected. So we will not come down to: i) less than Q76 of clubs ii) less than K6 of diamonds

Here is what we started with

void		void
KQJ10	-----> and the first five discards will leave ---->	QJ
K654		K6
Q7653		Q76

The strain hasn't been too great so far and we have retained our winning Q + J Hrts.

Suppose the declarer however plays a *sixth* spade ?

The best strategy in this sort of predicament is to keep the vulnerable hons guarded (make sure the Q has two cards with it ie Qxx ; and the K at least one card with it ie Kx) and if necessary , to start to throw winners. If we do this , we still have a chance of making a trick from a guarded honour. If we unguard all our honours and kept our "long suit" we would end up making no tricks at all ! In our above example we should jettison the *winning* J Hrts.

This is another side to this problem. Partner has bid and you lead partner's suit. This appears to have been the winning lead. When you next get in you will lead partner's suit again. The contract is 3NT and partner bid Hrts.

	(dummy)
	8765
(you)	A6
Q43	Q87
J102	K982
54	
Q7653	

You lead the J Hrts and it wins the trick. You lead another Hrt and dummy wins. Now an avalanche of diamonds hit the table. You must make three discards on these diamonds. Well as above it is most important to look after ourselves and make sure our Honour cards are not left unguarded. You must keep Q43 sp and Q76 clbs. What has to go is the Hrt that you have kept to lead to partner.

