

Ruffing or establishing ?

You are in 4Sp and receive the lead of the K Hrts .

(declarer)	(dummy)
KQ973	A82
A54	2
J6	KQ987
A74	K982

There are two lines of play that suggest themselves:-

- i) trumping Hrts in the dummy
- ii) establishing diamonds (to discard the losing Hrts)

Well it may seem straightforward to ruff Hrts but let us see what actually would happen if we adopt line (i).

Trick 1-----Ace Hrts

Trick 2----- ruff a Hrt

Trick 3 ----- come to hand with the Ace clubs

Trick 4 ----- ruff a Hrt

and this is the position ....

(declarer)	(dummy)
KQ973	A
void	void
J6	KQ987
74	K98

we have done "ok" and we could now start to draw trumps , playing the Ace spades , then try to get back to our hand to continue drawing trumps .There are still difficulties but it will all probably work out and apart from leaving you somewhat breathless and unsure of how many trumps have been played you will probably make the contract.

Well done and take a break.

Over the page we are going to see how the alternative approach of establishing the long suit { the diamonds } would compare.