

The trumps don't break

It looks a momma poppa hand - all you need do is draw trumps and then take extra tricks ; a hand just like this one in 4Sp :-

(declarer)	(dummy)
AKQ3	7654
KQ3	AJ98
Q54	876
643	AK

A diamond is led and continued and the opponents take their Ace and King; next another diamond is led and you win with the Queen.

You play the Ace spades , then the King spades and ...quelle horreur , the trumps haven't broken and one opponent still has two trumps left including the winning J spades.

Here is the position before trick 5 :-

(declarer)	(dummy)
Q3	76
KQ3	AJ98
void	void
643	AK

there is no great difficulty however ; we have plenty of winners to enjoy and the usual method is simply to leave the opponents with their one winning trump and get on with taking tricks. In the above hand we next play the Q spades and then stop drawing trumps. We play Hrts and don't care if and when the defender with the trump decides to ruff.

This method of *leaving the winning trump outstanding* worked because we could easily take more tricks in the other suits. The other suits offered us established tricks. Now look at this more difficult hand.

(declarer)	(dummy)	
AKQ3	7654	The Ace and another diamond are played.
KQ32	J1098	We draw the A + K spades and again an
KQ	876	opponent still has two trumps left including the
643	AK	winning J spades. This is the position:

(declarer)	(dummy)
Q3	76
KQ32	J1098
void	8
643	AK

Nowif you play the Q spades {leaving the J outstanding } and then play the K Hrts , the opponents may win with the Ace and *draw* your last trumps with their J. Suddenly you have no trumps left and the opponents are free to cash a winning diamond. You have gone down. What went wrong ? To find out turn the page.....

