

07 - 2023 – Throwing High Cards Early

This hand is a lesson in counting your 10 winners at the outset to make your Contract. To do this, sometimes you need to overcome the natural desire to hang on to high cards

Can you find the trap below?

Dealer North Nil Vul

	10	
	J1083	
	AQ54	
	6543	
J92		863
42		A965
J10873		K92
AJ7		Q98
	AKQ754	
	KQ7	
	6	
	K102	

The Bidding

North and East Passed, and South opened 4S, all Pass

West led H4, East won with HA

[South now counted 6 Spade winners (so long as they broke 3:3), 3 Hearts and DA = 10 Tricks (if the Spades broke no worse than 4:2, then the Diamond finesse was the fall-back)]

South nonchalantly threw H7 on HA (*note this discard*)

East then played C8, South CK, West CA. perhaps fearing South had CQ and C10, West switched to DJ. South (expecting he had 3 Heart winners) rose with DA

South drew Trumps in 3 rounds, then looked seriously at Hearts. He could play HK, but then could not get to HJ in Dummy as the 10th Trick

Moral of the Story

South had to look at the Heart suit early on and throw HQ at Trick 1. Then after playing HK, the H7 is an entry to the winning HJ and H10 (thus, South makes 3 hearts, 6 Spades and DA)

Look at your entries very early on, as sometimes throwing top cards is necessary, even if counter-intuitive, to preserve entries

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