

Planning the Play in a Suit Contract

NG34Bridge

Prepared hands for RealBridge Practice Session

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 2	♠ K J 6 3	♠ 5 4
♥ A K 3 2	♥ Q 8 7 5	♥ 9 6 4
♦ Q 9 4	♦ 10 5 3 2	♦ A J 8 7 6
♣ K 10 7 6 3	♣ 4	♣ J 9 5

	♠ A Q 10 9 8 7	
	♥ J 10	
	♦ K	
	♣ A Q 8 2	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Dbl	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

South is declarer in 4♠

Lead ♥ A by West (top of AK)

7 top tricks: ♠6, ♥0, ♦0, ♣1.

Extra tricks: 1 heart trick by force, 2 club ruffs.

Discard opportunities for losers? None

Plan: When you win the lead, draw trumps. Force out the ♥K (if it has not already been played) to establish a heart honour. Cross to the ♣A and ruff clubs twice, remembering to cash the ♥Q when in dummy.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ulmnx5>

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ J 10 5 4 3	♠ K 7	♠ A 9 6 2
♥ K 8 6	♥ J 10 9 7	♥ A Q
♦ K 3	♦ Q 10 9 8 2	♦ A 4
♣ Q J 10	♣ 9 5	♣ K 8 6 3 2

	♠ Q 8	
	♥ 5 4 3 2	
	♦ J 7 6 5	
	♣ A 7 4	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
		4 ♠	All pass

West is declarer in 4♠

Lead ♥ J by North (top of a 2+ card honour sequence)

6 top tricks: ♠1, ♥3, ♦2, ♣0

Extra tricks: 3 clubs by force, 2 or 3 tricks by length

Discard opportunities for losers? None

Plan: Draw trumps in two or three rounds. When next in, force out the ♣A, then cash your remaining club winners.

<https://tinyurl.com/yclyj2up>

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 10 9 8 4

♥ A 7 5

♦ 10 9 8 7 2

♣ J

♠ A 3

♥ Q J 10 9 2

♦ J 6 3

♣ A K 10



♠ K 7 5 2

♥ 3

♦ K Q 5 4

♣ 9 8 6 4

♠ Q J 6

♥ K 8 6 4

♦ A

♣ Q 7 5 3 2

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

1 ♣

Pass

4 ♥

All pass

2 ♥

North is Declarer in 4 ♥**Lead ♦ K by East (top of a 2+ card honour sequence)****5 top tricks:** ♠1, ♥0, ♦1, ♣3.**Extra tricks:** 4 heart tricks by length; 2 more length tricks in clubs, 2 diamond ruffs, 1 spade (Q or J) by force. 1 spade by finesse or ruff (see below)**Discard opportunities for losers?** None

Plan: When first in dummy with the ♦A, lead to the ♠A and ruff a diamond. Cross to the ♣A (pleased to see the ♣J fall – your ♣10 is now a winner) to ruff a second diamond. Start drawing trumps. You will lose to the ♥A but will win any return and will win all the remaining tricks bar the ♠K

<https://tinyurl.com/y892cjee>
Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ Q 10 7 5

♥ 7 6 3

♦ 3

♣ K 6 5 4 3

♠ K J 9 8

♥ 2

♦ K 10 8 6 4

♣ J 9 8



♠ A 2

♥ A K Q 10 8 4

♦ A Q 7 2

♣ A

♠ 6 4 3

♥ J 9 5

♦ J 9 5

♣ Q 10 7 2

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

3 ♥¹

Pass

6 ♥

All pass

1. stronger than bidding 4 ♥

East is Declarer in 6 ♥**Lead ♣ 2 by South (“4th highest to an honour”)****10 top tricks:** ♠1, ♥3, ♦1, ♣2.**Extra tricks:** A least 2 extra heart length tricks, probably 3 extra; 2 diamond ruffs (ruffing clubs in your hand will not produce extra tricks).**Discard opportunities for losers?** Dump the ♠2 loser on dummy's ♣K.

Plan: You win the lead and delay drawing trumps to take your diamond ruffs. Win ♦A and ruff a diamond. Discard ♠2 on ♣K, return to hand with the ♥A and ruff a second diamond. Now return to hand with a spade to draw trumps.

<https://tinyurl.com/ydg4nr7k>

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q J 9 4 2
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ 10 9 8 6
♣ —

♠ A
♥ A J 10 9 6
♦ A 3
♣ J 10 9 8 3



♠ K 8 7 5
♥ 8 3 2
♦ K 4 2
♣ Q 5 2

♠ 10 6 3
♥ 4
♦ Q J 7 5
♣ A K 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣
All pass			

South is Declarer in 5 ♣

Lead ♠Q by West (top of a 2+ card honour sequence)

5 top tricks: ♠1, ♥1, ♦1, ♣2

Extra tricks: 2 or 3 club length tricks depending on the split (3-0 or 2-1). 2 spade ruffs, 1 more diamond trick by force but possibly a second by finessing against the ♦K to promote both declarer's diamonds provided East holds the ♦K (50% probability)

Discard opportunities for losers? None

Plan: Draw trumps. On discovering the bad break, ruff a spade to get to dummy and run the ♣J, a marked finesse. Draw the last trump and play ♦A and a second diamond to the ♦Q J, a finesse which loses to East's ♦K but now your ♦Q J are promoted.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7qxp9>

Board 6
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K 9 6 4
♥ A 7 6
♦ 8 7 6 3
♣ K Q

♠ Q 10 8
♥ Q 8 2
♦ J 10 9 2
♣ 10 6 3



♠ A 7 5 3
♥ J 10 9
♦ K 4
♣ A J 7 5

♠ J 2
♥ K 5 4 3
♦ A Q 5
♣ 9 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

East is Declarer in 4 ♠

Lead ♥3 by South (4th highest to an honour)

7 top tricks: ♠2, ♥1, ♦0, ♣4.

Extra tricks: One more spade by length if spades break 3-2. Two diamond ruffs.

Discard opportunities for losers? Two of your heart losers can be discarded on dummy's clubs

Plan: Win the lead with the ♥A and immediately unblock clubs by playing ♣KQ. Cash the ♠K and cross to dummy with your ♠A and discard your ♥7 and ♥6 losers on your clubs. Now cross ruff diamonds and hearts, losing only the ♦AQ and the ♠Q.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ccbjijs>

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ Q 10 3 2		♠ J 9 7 6 5
♥ Q J 5		♥ 7 4
♦ Q 10 8		♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ A 10 6		♣ 8 4

	♠ K	
	♥ A K 6 2	
	♦ A 7 4	
	♣ K Q 5 3 2	

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			

North is Declarer in 4 ♥

Lead ♠6 by East ("4th highest to an honour")

6 top tricks: ♠2, ♥2, ♦2, ♣0.

Extra tricks: 2 club tricks by force and two more by length if clubs split 3-2 (68% probability).

Discard opportunities for losers? A diamond loser can be discarded on declarer's ♠A.

Plan: Draw two rounds of trumps, leaving the master trump out (Rule of 1). Now play on clubs, leading the ♣2, 'low from the long hand'. At some point the defence will win their master trump but then you can clean up.

<https://tinyurl.com/yd6hjp19>

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 8 2		♠ A J 6 5
♥ K Q 6 4		♥ J
♦ K Q 6		♦ J 8 3
♣ J 5		♣ K Q 10 7 2

	♠ 9 7	
	♥ A 9 5 3	
	♦ 10 9 7 5	
	♣ 9 4 3	

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

West is Declarer in 4 ♠

Lead ♥2 by North ("4th highest to an honour*" (not wanting to lead away from aces and king)

* The 10 is classified as an honour

Top tricks: ♠1, ♥0, ♦0, ♣0. (Just one top trick!!)

Extra tricks: You have an abundance of potential winners by force, but you are missing three aces so to make your contract you must avoid losing to the ♠K.

Discard opportunities for losers? None

Plan: Once you win the lead, cross to dummy (if necessary) to run the ♠Q, playing low from dummy unless North plays the ♠K. If the ♠Q wins the trick, repeat the finesse by running ♠10 (and ♠8), to capture the ♠K.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9om5b6y>