

Jim's Lessons Week 3 #5 Postpone Drawing Trump - Ruff in the East hand

Board 25

North Deals	♠ K 6	♥ 10 4 3	♦ K J 6	♣ J 10 5 4 2
E-W Vul	♠ A 10 9 2	♥ K J 7 6	♦ 9 3	♣ A K 7
	♠ Q 8 7 5 4 3	♥ Q	♦ Q 10 5 2	♣ 9 3
	8	15	11	6

EW 6♥; EW 4N; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1♠;

Par -1400: NS 6♠×-6

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Dbf	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

4 ♥ by East

Lead: LEAD¹

1. 2 diamonds

Postpone Drawing Trump To Ruff Losers

Contract: 4 ♥/E Lead: 2 ♦

Play of Hand: With 10 quick tricks, declarer was tempted to draw 3 rounds of trump. This limits the number of tricks that can be made. If he draws 3 rounds of trump he can only make 11 tricks.

Point of Lesson - If you know that you have a certain number of losers, it is often possible to ruff them while the opponents may not be able to over-ruff. Even if the defender does over-ruff, then you may make the same number of tricks you were going to make anyway.

Tricks for declarer: Drawing 3 rounds of trump

Ace & King & Jack of hearts	3
Ace of spades	1
Spade ruffs in the East hand	2
Ace of diamonds	1
Ace, King, Queen of clubs	3
Diamond ruff	1

Total 11 tricks

Instead declarer wins the diamond lead with the ace and leads a spade to the ace. He then ruffs a spade in the East hand. A heart is led to the king in the West hand (declarer noting the play of the queen by South) and another spade is led and ruffed in the East hand (North probably discarding a diamond). A club to the ace in the West hand allows declarer to again lead a spade and ruff in the East hand. Again North discarding. Now East cashes the ace of hearts (the last trump in the East hand) and leads to the other high club in the West hand. There he plays the jack of hearts taking North's last trump. Declarer can still win the queen of clubs and the other small heart.

Tricks for declarer: Not Drawing Trump

Ace of diamonds	1
Ace of spades	1
Spade ruff #1 in the East hand	1
King of hearts	1
Spade ruff #2 in the East hand	1
Ace of clubs in the West hand	1
Spade ruff #3 in the East hand	1
Ace of hearts	1
King of clubs	1
Jack of hearts	1
Small heart	1
Queen of clubs	1

Total 12 tricks