

Ruffing in Dummy

1

♠ Q107	♠ 52
♥ 42	♥ J953
♦ 108743	♦ KQ95
♣ A65	♣ 743

♠ A63	♠ KJ984
♥ A1086	♥ KQ7
♦ J2	♦ A6
♣ J1092	♣ KQ8

Dealer: North			
N-S Vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♣ J

Taking 10 tricks depends on ruffing a heart in dummy. This must be done before drawing even one round of trumps. If you do, when W wins the Ace of hearts s/he will clear trumps from dummy. So lead a heart at Trick 2, planning to ruff the third heart before trumps are drawn. A small trump lead would actually defeat the contract.

2

♠ 8	♠ K65
♥ QJ10732	♥ A4
♦ Q106	♦ 98732
♣ 874	♣ QJ6

♠ AQJ743	♠ 1092
♥ K85	♥ 96
♦ A	♦ KJ54
♣ K103	♣ A952

Dealer: East			
E-W Vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ Q

The slam by EW has one sure loser in the A of clubs, so a heart must be ruffed in dummy. However if we try to ruff with the 5 of spades, we will be overruffed. Here we can afford to draw two rounds of trumps with the A and Q, saving the K to ruff the heart loser.

3

♠ AKQ743	♠ J6
♥ 6	♥ Q73
♦ A2	♦ 1098
♣ AQ85	♣ J10742

♠ 982	♠ 105
♥ KJ85	♥ A10942
♦ KQ73	♦ J654
♣ 93	♣ K6

Dealer: South			
Both Vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣ J

With an inevitable diamond loser, N must ruff a losing club in dummy to make 12 tricks. S/he should take two clubs, postpone cashing the Q, and attempt to ruff the club loser. Although the J of trumps is outstanding, declarer should ruff with the Ten to increase the chances of not being overruffed.

4

♠ Q53	♠ AK6
♥ A8	♥ K109743
♦ 10854	♦ KQ6
♣ AJ96	♣ 3

♠ 872	♠ J1094
♥ QJ62	♥ 5
♦ J7	♦ A932
♣ Q1052	♣ K874

Dealer: West			
Neither Vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠ J

Playing in 4H, it looks like we have a spade loser plus three Aces to lose. To make it, we would like to ruff a losing spade, but dummy has the same number as declarer! Can we make a plan to throw off a spade, then ruff it? This is called "creating a shortage in dummy." We win the spade lead and postpone drawing trumps, immediately leading a diamond to the J to drive out the A. Now when a spade is returned, we cash our top diamonds throwing off a spade loser! We ruff our third spade and only then draw trumps.