

Putting it all Together

Masterclass, 2024

India Natt

- Planning the play
- Problems to solve
- Lines of play
- Refined techniques
- The solution

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- Any guesses to make or problems that might arise?

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- Do you have extra winners (suit)? What should be discarded on those?
- Any guesses to make or problems that might arise?
- Which lines/techniques are options? Can you have your cake and eat it?

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Dummy: ♠ K74 ♥ 7 ♦ J32 ♣ AK7654

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Note: RHO must have 5-6 diamonds.

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Losers: 0 ♠, 4 ♥, 2 ♦, 0 ♣ = 6 losers

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Problems: ♥ (guess/ruffing/discarding) and ♦ (discarding)

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Extra winners: ♣K and potentially 3 long ♣ (if ♣ 3-3)

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Problems: ♥ (guess/ruffing/discarding) and ♦ (discarding)

Extra winners: ♣K and potentially 3 long ♣ (if ♣ 3-3)

Initial thought: Discard one ♦ on the ♣K -> 5 losers

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Problems to solve

- Suit blockages
- Entries
- Solving guesses

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You will need to make a guess in ♥ (A/Q).

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You will need to make a guess in ♥ (A/Q).

If you get it right, -> 4 losers.

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This may make things tricky!

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Lines of play

- Drawing trumps
- Discarding losers
- Ruffing in the short hand
- Eliminations

Lines of play

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Option 1: ruff 3rd ♣ and if ♣ 3-3, draw trumps ending in Dummy and discard losers on 3 extra ♣ winners.

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Option 2: ruff 1 or 2 ♥ in Dummy, then draw trumps.

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Option 2: ruff 1 or 2 ♥ in Dummy, then draw trumps.

Option 2 > Option 1 since 1 requires ♣ 3-3 and trumps 3-2; 2 requires no overruff in ♥ or ♣.

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Refined techniques

- Cashing and finessing
- 8 Ever; 9 Never (and its caveats)
- Ducking as Declarer

Refined Techniques

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Lead: ♦9

Since there is no legitimate way of avoiding losing 1♦, should you duck on T1 to cut communications?

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If ♦ 1-6, no! If ♦ 2-5, yes!

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Lead: ♦9

Since there is no legitimate way of avoiding losing 1♦, should you duck on T1 to cut communications?

If ♦ 1-6, no! If ♦ 2-5, yes!

♦ are likely to be 2-5, as RHO did not bid 2♦ over 2♣ or jump to 2♦ straightaway.

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1. Duck T1 and win T2.

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1. Duck T1 and win T2.
2. Cash ♣ AK discarding 3rd ♦ -> 5 losers

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1. Duck T1 and win T2.
2. Cash ♣ AK discarding 3rd ♦ -> 5 losers
3. Play ♥ up preparing to guess; RHO will normally rise with ♥ A so if not, play ♥ J. If correct -> 4 losers

The solution

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4. If RHO wins ♥ A and plays ♦, need to ruff high, then ruff ♥ -> 3 losers;

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Lead: ♦ 9 to the ♦ T

4. If RHO wins ♥ A and plays ♦, need to ruff high, then ruff ♥ -> 3 losers;
if LHO wins ♥ A and plays trump, win in hand and ruff ♥ -> 3 losers;

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Lead: ♦ 9 to the ♦ T

4. If RHO wins ♥ A and plays ♦, need to ruff high, then ruff ♥ -> 3 losers;
if LHO wins ♥ A and plays trump, win in hand and ruff ♥ -> 3 losers;
if LHO wins ♥ Q and plays trump, win in hand and ruff ♥. Then ruff ♣ to hand and ruff a second ♥. -> 3 losers

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4. If RHO wins ♥ A and plays ♦, need to ruff high, then ruff ♥ -> 3 losers;
if LHO wins ♥ A and plays trump, win in hand and ruff ♥ -> 3 losers;
if LHO wins ♥ Q and plays trump, win in hand and ruff ♥. Then ruff ♣ to hand and ruff a second ♥. -> 3 losers
if LHO wins and plays ♣ with ♣ 3-3, change the plan to Option 1!

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Think through all of this on T1 **before you play a card from Dummy!**

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This will make it much easier to respond to what the opponents do, as you have planned for several eventualities!

Now head to the
Putting it all Together tournament
and try the practice hands!