Discarding

By Chris Dixon

DISCARDING

- 1 BE SAFE
- **2** GIVE INFORMATION TO PARTNER
- 3 CONCEAL INFORMATION FROM DECLARER
- 4 LOOK AHEAD

Signalling Systems

- 1 Count Standard Reverse
- 2 Attitude Standard Reverse
- 3 Suit Preference

Signalling Situations

- 1 On Partner's Lead Attitude Count Suit Preference
- 2 On Declarer's Lead Count Suit Preference
- 3 Discarding Attitude Count Suit Preference

Discarding Strategy

- **1** Retain the same length as declarer's side suit
- 2 Retain exit cards to save against and end-play
- 3 Don't give declarer no guess in a suit
- 4 Discard to give suit preference signals
- 5 Discard to unblock a suit

Easy Suit Preference Situations

- 1 When you are giving partner a ruff
- 2 When you have 2 or 3 small trumps
- 3 When you are discarding from known cards
- 4 When partner leads and dummy has a singleton

					К 9	
					A 7 5 2	
			•		A 4 2	
					K 6 5 4	
	 ★ ★ ★ 			ĺ	Board 2 Dealer East NS Vul	 ▲ 654 ♥ Q 1086 ♦ K8 ▲ J 1087
			•	•		
V	N		E P P		South plays in 6♠ West leads 2♠	
P			P			
P			Ρ			
P		Ρ	Ρ			

1♠ 3♠

4**≜** 6**≜**

			¥	K 9 A 7 5 2 A 4 2	
.≜ 7 ♥ J 9 ♦ Q ♣ Q	9 4 10 9 5 3		*	K 6 5 4 Board 2 Dealer East NS Vul	 ▲ 654 ♥ Q1086 ♦ K8 ♣ J1087
			♥ ◆	A Q J 10 8 3 K 3 J 7 6 A 9	
W P P P P	N 2♣ 4♦ 5♥ P	E P P P P		South plays in 6♠ West leads 2♠	

1♠ 3♠ 4♠

6♠

		 ▲ A 2 ♥ KQ94
		♦ A 9 4
		★ K932
🛧 Q J 10 8		*
♥ 8		Board 7 Dealer South
♦ K985		Both Vul
♣ Q 10 6 5		*
		☆
		▼
		◆
		*
W N	E	
P 2NT	Р	South plays in 6♥
P 3♠ P 4♦	P P	West leads Q♠
P 4▼ P 4NT	P P	
P 5NT	Р	
P P	Р	

S 1♥ 3♥ 4♣ 5♠ 6♥

			• •	A 2 K Q 9 4 A 9 4 K 9 3 2	
♥ 8 ♦ K 9	J 10 8 9 8 5 10 6 5		[Board 7 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ 96543 ♥ 107 ◆ QJ2 ◆ J87
				A J 6 5 3 2 10 7 3	
W P P P P P	N 2NT 3♠ 4♦ 4NT 5NT P	E P P P P P		South plays in 6♥ West leads Q♠	

S 1♥ 3♥

4♣

4**♠** 5**♠** 6♥

▲ A	3	* *	Q 9 2 7 3 A 10 9 4 K Q 5 2	
♥ K ♦ J9 • 9 ⁻¹	652		Board 2 Dealer East NS Vul	 ★
		* * *		
W P	N P	E 3♠ P		d another. East wins the K & which declarer ruffs

4♥

		•	Q 9 2 7 3 A 10 9 4 K Q 5 2	
	10 5 9 6 5 2		Board 2 Dealer East NS Vul	 ▲ KJ10864 ♥ 107 ♦ K74 ♣ J8
		•	7 5 A Q J 9 8 4 2 3 A 10 4	
W P	N P	E 3♠ P		d another. East wins the K♠ which declarer ruffs

4♥

			•	4	
			•	J 8 4 A J 10 8 4	
			*	8543	
∳ J 9	753				♠
♥ A	К97			Board 6 Dealer East	•
• 3				EW Vul	•
♣ Q	J 10				*
			•		
			۷		
			•		
			*		
W	Ν	E P		South plays in 6♦ West leads A♥	
Р	1NT	Р			K♥, leads a trump to
P P	5♦ P	P P		-	s the J♥, and draws two arding the 2♣ from hand.

1♠ 3♦ 6♦

			٠	4 J 8 4 A J 10 8 4 8 5 4 3	
♥ A ♦ 3	9753 K97 J10			Board 6 Dealer East EW Vul	 ▲ Q 10 ♥ Q 6 5 3 2 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 9 7 6
			♥ ♦	A K 8 6 2 10 K Q 9 6 A K 2	
W P P P	N 1NT 5• P	E P P P		dummy's 10+, ruff	K♥, leads a trump to s the J♥, and draws two arding the 2♣ from hand.

1♠ 3♦ 6♦

	 ▲ AQ65 ♥ K5 ♦ 10643 ♣ Q76 	
 ★ ★ ★ 	Board 5 Dealer North Both Vul	 ▲ KJ97 ♥ 64 ♦ KQ8 ▲ AK84
	 ▲ ◆ ▲ 	

1♣
Ρ
Ρ

South plays in 4♥ West leads J♣ and Eats plays 3 rounds of the suit, declarer ruffing Declare now leads 6 more rounds of trumps, discarding 2 diamonds and 2 spades from dummy

	 ▲ AQ65 ♥ K5 ♦ 10643 ♣ Q76 	
 ▲ 1043 ♥ 83 ◆ J965 ◆ J1052 	Board 5 Dealer North Both Vul	 ▲ KJ97 ◆ 64 ◆ KQ8 ▲ AK84
	 ▲ 82 ▼ AQJ10972 ◆ A2 ◆ 93 	

S	W	Ν	Е
		Р	1♣
17	Ρ	1NT	Р
3♥	Р	4¥	Р
Р	Ρ		

South plays in 4♥ West leads J♣ and East plays 3 rounds of the suit, declarer ruffing Declare now leads 6 more rounds of trumps, discarding 2 diamonds and 2 spades from dummy

				K Q 6 3	
				K 5 2	
			•	763	
			*	A 9 5	
	▲ 10 7				
	7 10 8	6 3		Board 10	•
	♦ Q19	4		Dealer East Both Vul	•
	♣QJ6				♣
	± Q JU				T
			•		
			۲		
			•		
			*		
۶ ۱	N	N E		South plays in 3NT	-
4.017				West leads Q+	
	ף ס		ס ס		
	Þ				

		۲	K Q 6 3	
		¥	K 5 2	
		٠	763	
		*	A 9 5	
	▲ 10 7			▲ J954
	v 10 8 6 3		Board 10	♥ J7
	◆ QJ94		Dealer East Both Vul	♦ A K 2
	♣ Q J 6			10743
		٠	A 8 2	
		¥	A Q 9 4	
		٠	10 8 5	
		*	K 8 2	
V			South plays in 3N1	Г
Р	P 2♣ P		West leads Q+	
Р				
P)			

1NT 2♥ P

				♥ ♦	7 6 4 K 10 5 K 10 8 5 K 10 2	
	 ★ ★ 				Board 3 Dealer South EW Vul	 ▲ KQ5 ✓ J986 ◆ 73 ◆ QJ96
				* * *		
S 2NT P	W P P	N 3NT	E P		South plays in 3N West leads 3 to t Declarer cashes 4 ending in dummy.	the 4♠, Q♠ and A♠ rounds of diamonds

	N E 3NT P		South plays in 3NT West leads 3♠ to the 4♠, Q♠ and A♠ Declarer cashes 4 rounds of diamonds ending in dummy.	
 ▲ J 9 8 3 ♥ 7 4 ◆ J 4 2 ◆ 8 5 4 	32	♥ ♦	Board 3 Dealer South EW Vul A 10 A Q 3 2 A Q 9 6 A 7 3	 ▲ KQ5 ♥ J986 ◆ 73 ◆ QJ96
		♥ ♦	7 6 4 K 10 5 K 10 8 5 K 10 2	

Ρ

2NT

	 ▲ Q952 ▼ AQ8 ◆ 643 ▲ Q73 	
 ▲ ◆ ▲ 	Board 7 Dealer South Game All	 ★ 763 ♥ K92 ♦ AQJ1092 ★ 2
	 ★ ★ ★ 	

S	W	Ν	E
1♣	Ρ	1♠	2♦
3♣	Ρ	3♦	Р
3NT	Р	Р	Р

South plays in 3NT West leads 7 to the 3 , 9 and K. Declarer now cashes 6 rounds of clubs discarding 2 diamonds and 1 spade from dummy.

* *	A 10 8 4 10 6 5 3 7 5 8 6 5		 	Q 9 5 2 A Q 8 6 4 3 Q 7 3 Board 7 Dealer South Game All K J J 7 4 K 8 A K J 10 9 4	 ▲ 763 ♥ K92 ▲ QJ1092 ▲ 2
W P P P	N 1♠ 3♦ P	E 2♦ P P			

S 1♣

3♣

3NT

			A J 7	
		•	Q 7	
		٠	Q 8 7 5	
		*	Q 8 7 4	
۲				★ K 8
۲			Board 1 Dealer North	♥ KJ10985
•			Love All	♦ A 9 2
*				♣ 63
		*		
		•		
		•		
		*		
W	N	E	South plays in 3N1	-
vv	IN	L	West leads 4 to t	
	Ρ	1♥	Declarer wins the	2 nd heart with the A and

2*

3NT

Ρ

Ρ

2♥

Ρ

Ρ

Ρ

cashes 6 club tricks.

W P P	N P 2♥ P	E 1♥ P P		South plays in 3NT West leads 4♥ to t Declarer wins the cashes 6 club trick	he 2 nd	Q♥, K♥ and 6♥ heart with the A♥ and
	Q 9 6 4 3 2 4 3 2 J 10 6 2		☆ ◆	Q 8 7 5 Q 8 7 4 Board 1 Dealer North Love All 10 5 A 6 K 4 3 A K J 10 9 5	♥ ♦	K 8 K J 10 9 8 5 A 9 2 6 3
				A J 7 Q 7		

2**♣** 3NT

	 ▲ J 3 ♥ K Q 10 5 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ K 9 5 2 	
 ▲ ◆ ◆ ★ 	Board 14 Dealer South Love All	 ▲ A 6 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 9 4 2 ♣ Q 8 6 3
	 ▲ ◆ ▲ 	

S	W	Ν	Е
1NT	Ρ	2♣	Ρ
2♦	Ρ	3NT	Ρ
Р	Р		

South plays in 3NT West leads 4♠ taken by East's A♠. The 6♠ is returned and declarer wins the 3rd round with the K♠. Declarer then cashes 4 rounds of hearts.

	* *	J 3 K Q 10 5 A 8 3	
 ▲ Q 9 8 4 2 ♥ 9 8 6 4 ♦ 10 6 ▲ A 10 	•	K 9 5 2 Board 14 Dealer South Love All	 ▲ A 6 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 9 4 2 ◆ Q 8 6 3
	•	K 10 7 A J 2 K Q 7 5 J 7 4	
W N P 2♣	E P	South plays in 3N West leads 4♠ tak	Г en by East's A♠. The 6♠ is

1NT

Ρ

Ρ

3NT

Ρ

2♦

Ρ

West leads 4♠ taken by East's A♠. The 6♠ is returned and declarer wins the 3rd round with the K♠. Declarer then cashes 4 rounds of hearts.

	 ▲ J 3 ♥ K Q 10 5 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ K 9 5 2 	
 ▲ Q 9 8 4 2 ♥ 9 8 6 4 ♦ 10 6 ♠ A 10 	Board 14 Dealer South Love All	 ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲
	 ▲ ● ▲ ▲ 	

S	W	Ν	Е
1NT	Ρ	2♣	Ρ
2♦	Ρ	3NT	Р
Р	Ρ		

South plays in 3NT West leads 4♠ taken by East's A♠. The 6♠ is returned and declarer wins the 3rd round with the K♠. Declarer then cashes 4 rounds of hearts.

 ▲ 83 ♥ A K Q ♦ K 10 8 ▲ 10 8 3 	8	 ▲ AQ5 J106 A753 J65 Board 3 Dealer South NS Vul 	
W	N E	South plays in 4 West leads 3 roun	ds of hearts. Declarer
-	2♦ P 4♠ P	ruffs and leads 5 r	

1♠ 2♠ P

			•	A Q 5	
			¥	J 10 6	
			•	A 7 5 3	
			*	J 6 5	
≜ 83					◆ 74
🔻 A K	Q 3 2			Board 3	♥ 875
♦ K 1	0 8			Dealer South NS Vul	◆ Q942
♣ 10 8	8 3				♣ Q942
				K J 10 9 6 2	
			¥	94	
			•	J 6	
			*	АК7	
W	Ν	E		South plays in 4 West leads 3 round	ds of hearts. Declarer
Р	2♦	Р		ruffs and leads 5 real	
Р	4♠	Р			•
Р					

1≜ 2♠

			•	A Q 5	
			x		
			۷	J 10 6	
			•	A 7 5 3	
			*	J 6 5	
٠					▲ 72
¥				Board 3 Dealer South	♥ 854
•				NS Vul	◆ Q964
*					♣ Q942
			•		
			¥		
			•		
			*		
W	Ν	E		South plays in 4 West leads 3 round	ds of hearts. Declarer

ruffs and leads 5 rounds of trumps.

S

1♠

2♠

Ρ

Ρ

Ρ

Ρ

2♦

4♠

Ρ

▲ 3			♥ ♦	A 10 4 K J 10 3 K 7 2 8 4 2	★
♥ 75 ♦ Q1 ♣ AK				Board 15 Dealer South NS Vul	♥ ◆ ★
			 ★ ★ ★ 		
W P P P	N 2♣ 4♠	E P P			West cashes A and K the third round. Declarer rounds of trumps.

S 1♠

3**≜** P

 ★ 842 ★ 3 ★ 765 ♥ 754 Board 15 Dealer South NS Vul ★ 1954 	* A K 107 J	*	K Q J 9 8 2	- , , , ,
 ▲ 3 ▲ 765 ♥ 754 ▲ 80ard 15 Dealer South NS Vul ▲ 765 ♥ Q86 ◆ J954 	♣ A K 10 7 5	▲	K Q J 9 8 2	♣]96
▲ 3 ▲ 765 Board 15				
		*	842	
🔻 K J 10 3			A 10 4	

S 1♠ 3♠

			 ▲ K853 ▲ J9 ◆ 962 ▲ A72
◆ K	6 4 3 Q 8 4 10 8 4		 A 7 2 Board 18 Dealer East NS Vul *
			 ▲ ▲
W P P	N 3NT P	E P P P	South plays in 4 ▲ West leads K♦ to the 2♦, J♦ and 3♦ Declarer ruffs the 2 nd diamond and leads 4 rounds of trumps – East following twice.

1♠ 4♠

F		3NT I	כ		2 nd diamond and leads 4
V	N		E	South plays in 4 West leads K to t	
	 ▶ Q 10 		•	NS Vul A Q J 10 7 6 K 10 7 3 J 7 5	 ▲ K 9 3
	 ∳ 9 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ K Q 8 		•	A 7 2 Board 18 Dealer East	 ▲ 4 2 ♥ 8 5 2 ♦ A J 10 7 5
			•	K 8 5 3 A J 9 9 6 2	

1♠ 4♠

		•	 87 7 752 AQJ10875
 ▲ ● ▲ 			 Board 19 Dealer South EW Vul ★
		•	 QJ104 AJ106 KQ64 K
W	N	E	South plays in 3NT West loads 28 to the 78, K8 and A8

S	W	Ν	Ε
1♥	Ρ	2♣	Р
2NT	Р	3♣	Р
3NT	Р	Р	

South plays in 3NT West leads 3♥ to the 7♥, K♥ and A♥ What next?

		 87 7 752 AQJ10875 	
 A 9 3 2 Q 5 4 3 2 9 8 9 3 		Board 19 Dealer South EW Vul	 ▲ K 6 5 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ A J 10 3 ♣ 6 4 2
		 QJ104 AJ106 KQ64 K 	
W N P 2♣ P 3♣	E P P	South plays in 3N West leads 3♥ to t What next?	

1♥ 2NT

3NT

Ρ

3♣ Ρ

			•	J 5 2 9 7 6 K 9 7 4 Q 10 6	
	 ★ ★ ★ 			Board 4 Dealer West Game all	 ▲ ● ▲
			•	K 10 9 Q 10 8 A J 10 2 A 7 5	
S 1NT	W P P	N P P	E P P	South plays in 1N West leads 4♥ and rounds of the suit	d the defence cash 5

P P	P P	P P	West leads 4♥ and the defence cash 5 rounds of the suit		
W	Ν	E	South plays in 1NT		
			★ A75		
			♦ A J 10 2		
			♥ Q 10 8		
			★ K 10 9		
📥 J	8		♣ K9432		
♦ Q	53		Game all + 86		
♥ K	J 4 3 2		Board 4 Vealer West		
♠ A	43		▲ Q876		
			♣ Q 10 6		
			• К974		
			♥ 976		
			▲ J52		

1NT

		*	42			
		•	A 10 8			
		•	A 9 6 2			
		Ą	• AK93			
٠				♦ 987		
•			Board 8	♥ 62		
•			Dealer West Love All	♦ QJ73		
*				♣ QJ62		
		*				
		•	,			
		•				
		4	•			
W	N	E	South plays in 4¥			
2♠	X	Р	West leads A and	d K followed by a trump.		
Р	Ρ	Р	Declarer wins in d	Declarer wins in dummy, plays a diamond		

4♥

West leads A and K followed by a trump. Declarer wins in dummy, plays a diamond to the K (West playing the 8) and then plays two more trumps.

		* * *	A 9 6 A K 9 3	
 ▲ (A ♥ (9 ♦ (8 ◆ 	5 4)		Board 8 Dealer West Love All (Q 3) (K Q 3) (K)	 ▲ 9 ◆ QJ7 ◆ QJ62
W 2♠ P	N X P	E P P	Declarer wins in de	I K♠ followed by a trump. ummy, plays a diamond aying the 8♦) and then

plays two more trumps.

S

4♥

			٠	4 2	
			۷	A 10 8	
			٠	A 9 6 2	
			*	АК93	
	🛧 A K J 10	6 5			♦ 987
	v 954			Board 8	♥ 62
	10 8 5 4			Dealer West Love All	♦ QJ73
	*				♣ QJ62
				Q 3	
			¥	K Q J 7 3	
			٠	К	
			*	10 8 7 5 4	
V	V N	E		South plays in 4 Y	
	. ▲ X	Р			I K♠ followed by a trump.
P	P P	Р	Declarer wins in dummy, plays a diame to the K♦ (West playing the 8♦) and the		

4♥

plays two more trumps.

		* *	K 8 7 A 8 5 K 5 Q 10 9 7 3	
 ▲ Q 5 ♥ J 6 ◆ A 1 ◆ 6 5 	10 8 4 2		Board 9 Dealer North Game All	 ▲ A ♥ KQ973 ♦ 73 ♣ KJ852
		* *	J 10 9 6 4 10 4 2 Q J 9 6 A	
W P	N 1NT P	E 2♥ P		clarer wins in dummy, by West's A♦. West

2♠

West leads J♥ Declarer wins in dummy, plays the K♦ taken by West's A♦. West leads a 2nd heart and East cashes 2 more hearts.

Summary

- **1** Try to retain length parity with declarer's side suit
- 2 Discard from short suits to give power to your trumps
- 3 Keep a card of exit when an endplay is threatened
- 4 Give signals and watch for signals
- 5 Count
- 6 Plan discards in advance