# Playing Trump Contracts

By Chris Dixon

# The Problems of Card Play

- **1** TRICKS
- **2** ENTRIES
- **3 CONTROL**

# Ways of Making Tricks

1	Top Tricks	A 6 2 A Q 7	K J 8 K J 2
2	High Card Promotion	K J 7 J 9 7 2	Q 10 6 3 K 10 3
3	Long Suit Promotion	A K 7 5 3 K 8 4 2	9 6 2 A 6 5 3
4	Finesse	A 7 2 A 10 7	Q 6 5 Q 5 2

5 Ruffing Without reducing trump length

# **Reasons for Having Trumps**

- 1 Extra Control
- 2 Make Tricks by Ruffing
- 3 Establish Long Suits Without Loss
- 4 Entries
- 5 Elimination Plays

### **STAGE 1 – Count Tricks**

- **1** Estimate probable tricks in each suit
- 2 Assume normal breaks but ignore extras from finesses
- **3** First Count Trump Tricks
- 4 Assess Potential Extra Tricks
- 5 Check on Losers

# **STAGE 2 – Determine Plan Type**

- **1** Draw Trumps and Establish Tricks
- 2 Ruff Losers with shorter or Equal Trumps
- 3 Ruff out a Long Suit
- 4 Cross Ruff

### **STAGE 3 – Drawing Trumps?**

- **1** Trumps Needed for Ruffs?
- 2 Trumps Needed for Control?
- **3** Trumps Needed for Entries?

1)	★ K9752	2)	★ KQJ109	3)	♣ Q J 10 6
	♥ A93		<b>7</b> 5 2		♥ QJ82
	♦ 873		AQ7		♦ A 8 4
	<b>♣</b> J9		<b>♣</b> 63		★ K 3
	▲ A 3		♣ 8752		<b>▲</b> 98
	🔻 K Q J 10 8 4		♥ 4		Y A K 10 4
	♦ AQ2		🔶 К 9 2		♦ 932
	♣ 83		♣ A8742		♣ AQ76
	4♥, Lead 2 top 🛧 then		4♠, Lead A♠ and		4♥, Lead K♦
	5+ from East		another, trumps are 3-1		

In each case, estimate your probable tricks and determine Plan Type

4)	★ KJ984	5)	★ KQJ4	6)		K J 8 4 3
	Y AQ42		Y Q72		۷	752
	♦ 9		AQ7		٠	K Q 7
	📥 K 5 3		♣ K87		*	К З
	▲ AQ 10 2		▲ A 10 8 6 2			A Q 9 2
	♥ 4		♥ A 10 4		۲	4
	♦ K 8 5 2		♦ K92		٠	A 10 2
	♣ A872		<b>♣</b> 92		*	A 8 7 4 2
	6♠, Lead J♦		4 <b>♠</b> , Lead 5♠		64	, Lead Q📥

#### In each case, estimate your probable tricks and determine Plan Type

			٠	K 9 7	
			۲	K 8 2	
			٠	АК72	
			*	A 8 2	
					<b></b>
¥				Board 1	•
•				Dealer North Love all	•
<b>♣</b>					*
			٠	A 10 8 4 3	
			¥	A 9 4 3	
			٠	J 3	
			٠	10 5	
			_		
W	Ν	E		South plays in 4♠ West leads Q♣	
	1 🔶	Ρ		Trumps are 3-2	
Ρ	1NT	Ρ			
Ρ	2♠	Ρ			
Р	Р	Р			

1♠ 2♣

4♠

			♥ ♦	K 9 7 K 8 2 A K 7 2 A 8 2	
∳ J ! ♥ Q ♦ Q • Q	1076 98			Board 1 Dealer North Love all	<ul> <li>▲ Q 6</li> <li>♥ J 5</li> <li>♦ 10 6 5 4</li> <li>♣ K 7 6 4 3</li> </ul>
			♥ ♦	A 10 8 4 3 A 9 4 3 J 3 10 5	
W P P P	N 1 ♦ 1NT 2 ♠ P	E P P P P		South plays in 4 West leads Q Trumps are 3-2	

1≜ 2♣

4♠

	▲			♥ ◆	J 10 9 3 A Q 2 10 6 3 9 4 2 Board 2	
	• •				Dealer East NS Vul	<ul> <li>◆</li> <li>◆</li> </ul>
				٠	K K J 10 9 7 3 A Q 7 A Q 3	
S 1♥ 4♥	W P P	N 2♥ P	E P P P		South plays in 4♥ West leads 5♥ Trumps are 3-1	

				J 10 9 3		
			¥	A Q 2		
			٠	10 6 3		
			*	942		
	♠Q65					A 8 7 4 2
	♥ 865			Board 2	¥	4
	♦ KJ2			Dealer East NS Vul	٠	9854
	📥 K 7 6 5				*	J 10 8
			٠	К		
			¥	K J 10 9 7 3		
			٠	A Q 7		
			*	A Q 3		
V	V N	E		South plays in 4♥ West leads 5♥		
		Р		Trumps are 3-1		
Р	27	Р				
Р	Р	Р				

1♥ 4♥

			•	A 10 8 5 4	
			۷	75	
			٠	A 2	
			*	КЈ 106	
٠					<b></b>
¥				Board 3	•
•				Dealer South EW Vul	•
*					*
			٠	7	
			¥	A Q 3 2	
			•	K Q 4 3	
			*	A 9 8 7	
W	Ν	Ε		South plays in 6♣	
_		_		West leads J	
Р	1♠	Р		Trumps are 3-2	
Р	3♦	Р			
Ρ	6♣	Р			
Ρ					

1♥ 2♣

4♦

			♥ ◆	A 10 8 5 4 7 5 A 2 K J 10 6	
	10 9 6 10 8			Board 3 Dealer South EW Vul	<ul> <li>▲ KQ92</li> <li>▼ J84</li> <li>◆ 9765</li> <li>◆ 54</li> </ul>
			٠	7 A Q 3 2 K Q 4 3 A 9 8 7	
W P P P P	N 1♠ 3♦ 6♣	E P P P		South plays in 6♣ West leads J♠ Trumps are 3-2	

1♥ 2♣

4•

			A 8	
			<b>Q</b> 7	
		•	1083	
		ļ	AQ10654	
٠				<b>^</b>
•			Board 4	•
•			Dealer West Both Vul	•
*				*
			К97	
			A 6 2	
			A K Q 7 4 2	
		4	5 7	
14/	NI		South plays in CA	
W 2♠	N 3 <b>♣</b>	E P	South plays in 6♦ West leads Q♠	
P	3NT	P	Trumps are 3-1	
Ρ	4 <b>☆</b>	Р		
Ρ	Р	Ρ		

3♦ 4♦ 6♦

<ul> <li>A 8</li> <li>Q 7</li> <li>10 8 3</li> <li>A Q 10 6 5 4</li> <li>A G 2</li> <li>A K Q 7 4 2</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>1083</li> <li>AQ10654</li> <li>AQ10654</li> <li>K953</li> <li>Board 4 Dealer West Both Vul</li> <li>J1084</li> <li>J96</li> <li>J98</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>AQ10654</li> <li>QJ10654</li> <li>K953</li> <li>5</li> <li>32</li> <li>K97</li> <li>A62</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>▲ QJ 10 6 5 4</li> <li>▲ K 9 5 3</li> <li>▲ 5</li> <li>▲ 3 2</li> <li>▲ J 10 8 4</li> <li>▲ J 9 6</li> <li>▲ K 9 7</li> <li>▲ A 6 2</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>K953</li> <li>S</li> <li>A</li> <li>Board 4 Dealer West Both Vul</li> <li>J96</li> <li>KJ98</li> </ul> KJ98
<ul> <li>K 9 5 3</li> <li>Dealer West Both Vul</li> <li>J 9 6</li> <li>K J 9 8</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>◆ 5</li> <li>★ 3 2</li> <li>▲ K 9 7</li> <li>▲ A 6 2</li> <li>▲ L 9 6</li> <li>▲ K 9 8</li> </ul>
* 32       * K97         * A62       * L00
♥ A 6 2
AKQ742
<b>★</b> 7
W N E South plays in 6
2♠ 3♣ P West leads Q♠
P 3NT P Trumps are 3-1
P 4♠ P
P P P

3♦ 4♦

6♦

<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>◆</li> <li>◆</li> <li>◆</li> </ul>			A Q 9 Q 5 A K 8 5 2 7 4 3 Board 5 Dealer North NS Vul K J 10 7 5 2 A 3 J 3 A Q 8	
W P P P P	N 1♦ 2♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ P	E P P P P P	South plays in 6♠ West leads J♦ Trumps are 3-1	

1♠ 3♣ 4NT

6 ♠

				A Q 9	
			¥	Q 5	
			٠	A K 8 5 2	
			*	743	
<b>≜</b> 8	63				<b>▲</b> 4
<b>y</b> 9	842			Board 5	🔻 K J 10 7 6
♦ Q	1074			Dealer North NS Vul	♦ 96
♣ J 9	9				📥 K 10652
			•	K J 10 7 5 2	
			¥	A 3	
			•	J3	
			*	A Q 8	
W	N	E		South plays in 6	
	1♦	Р		West leads J+	
Р	2♠	Р		Trumps are 3-1	
Ρ	4♠	Р			
Р	5♠	Р			
Р	Р	Р			

1♠ 3♣

4NT

6♠

			•	•	A 8 2 K Q 10 8 K 3 2 10 7 2	
	<ul> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> </ul>			ĺ	Board 6 Dealer East EW Vul	<ul> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> </ul>
			•		K J 6 3 A J 9 3 A 5 4 9 3	
V F F F	D	N 2♣ 4♥ P	E P P P		South plays in 4♥ West leads A♣, fol Trumps are 3-2	lowed by K& and another

1NT 2♥

			٠	A 8 2	
			¥	K Q 10 8	
			٠	K 3 2	
			*	10 7 2	
	<b>≜</b> Q 4				▲ 10975
	<b>7</b> 4 2			Board 6	♥ 65
	♦ Q 9 8	86		Dealer East EW Vul	◆ J 10 7
	🛧 A K 8	6			♣ QJ54
			٠	K J 6 3	
			¥	A J 9 3	
			٠	A 5 4	
			*	93	
-					
١	N	N E		South plays in 4	
		Р			lowed by K& and another
ſ	D	P 2♣ P		Trumps are 3-2	
	0	4♥ P			
	D	Ρ			

1NT 2♥

				<ul> <li>▲ J9754</li> <li>♥ A93</li> <li>♦ K32</li> <li>▲ J3</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>◆</li> <li>▲</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>Board 7 Dealer South Both Vul</li> <li>A3</li> <li>KQJ1054</li> <li>AJ7</li> <li>96</li> </ul>
S 1♥ 3♥ P	W P P P	N 1♠ 4♥	E P P	South plays in 4♥ West cashes AK♣, followed by a trump Trumps are 3-1

			♥ ◆	J 9 7 5 4 A 9 3 K 3 2 J 3	
♥ ◆	Q 8 7 6 2 Q 10 6 5 A K 8 4		<b>☆</b> ♥	Board 7 Dealer South Both Vul A 3 K Q J 10 5 4 A J 7 9 6	<ul> <li>▲ K 10 6 2</li> <li>♥ 8</li> <li>● 9 8 4</li> <li>◆ Q 10 7 5 2</li> </ul>
W P P P	N 1♠ 4♥	E P P		South plays in 4♥ West cashes AK♣, Trumps are 3-1	followed by a trump

1♥ 3♥

♠ 862	
Y Q 8 7 6	
♦ J82	
📥 A 8 3	
<b>▲</b>	
Image: wide wide wide wide wide wide wide wide	
<ul> <li>Dealer West</li> <li>Love All</li> </ul>	
≜	
🔶 A K J	
▼ K542	
◆ Q65	
📥 K Q 2	
S W N E South plays in 3¥	
P P P West leads J	
<b>1♥</b> P <b>2♥</b> P Trumps are 3-2	
2NT P 3 P	
P P	

<ul> <li>▲ Q 10 9 4</li> <li>▲ A 10</li> <li>♦ K 10 7</li> <li>▲ J 10 9 5</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>▲ 862</li> <li>Q876</li> <li>J82</li> <li>A83</li> <li>A83</li> <li>Board 8 Dealer West Love All</li> <li>A K J</li> <li>K 542</li> <li>Q65</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>★ 753</li> <li>★ 753</li> <li>★ J93</li> <li>▲ 943</li> <li>★ 764</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>♦ Q 6 5</li> <li>♣ K Q 2</li> </ul>	
W     N     E       P     P     P       P     2♥     P       P     3♥     P       P     3♥     1000000000000000000000000000000000000	South plays in 3♥ West leads J♣ Trumps are 3-2	

1♥ 2NT

#### **STAGE 4 – Control**

- **1** Equality of Controls and Losers
- 2 Discard Losers
- 3 Hold Up
- 4 Keep the Danger Hand Out
- 5 Finesse

7)	▲ A 6 2	8)	♠ Q 10 9 4	9)	★ 752
	♥ A93		🔻 A K J		Y QJ82
	♦ AQJ7		♦ Q 8		A J 7 5 2
	♣ QJ9		🛧 A 10 8 4		<b>♣</b> 2
	★ 854		★ KJ862		★ K83
	♥ K 10 8 4 2		♥ 4		Y A K 10 9 4
	♦ 83		♦ A 9 2		♦ K 9 8
	📥 AK2		♣ KQJ2		♣ A 8
	4♥, Lead K♠ (West bid		6♠, Lead J♦ (East has		4♥, Lead K♣
	1♠)		K <b>♦</b> )		

In each case, how do you deal with the problem of losers?

#### **STAGE 5 – Trump Control**

- 1 Don't Draw Trumps
- 2 Don't Ruff
- 3 Don't Overruff
- 4 Let the Defence Ruff

10)	♠ A 6 2	11)	♠ Q 10 9 4	12) 🔺	Q J 7 3
	💙 Q 8 5		♥ A 2	•	972
	♦ 954		◆ Q82	•	A K 8
	♣ Q865		🛧 A 10 8 4	*	K 6 2
	★ KQJ73		♠ AKJ7	*	A 8 2
	♥ 72		♥ J3	•	4
	♦ AK3		♦ J 10 9 3	•	Q J 9 7 2
	♣ AK2		📥 K Q 2	*	AQJ3
	4♠, Lead A♥,K♥ and a 3 <sup>rd</sup> round ruffed by East with 9♠		4♠, Lead K♥ (Trumps are 4-1)		, Lead AK♥ (Trumps e 4-1)

In each case, how do you deal with the problem of trump control?

#### **STAGE 6 – Entries**

- **1** Needed to establish and access a side suit
- 2 Needed for Finesses
- **3** Needed for Ruffing

13)	<b>▲</b> A 2	14)	★ KQJ962	15)	<b>≜</b> 3
	♥ A95		♥ A 5		♥ 972
	♦ AKQJ7		♦ KQ		♦ K 10 4
	♣ A83		🛧 A 10 2		♣ QJ10982
	★ K97543		▲ A 8		🛧 A K Q J 8 2
	♥ K 10		🖌 КЈЗ		<b>¥</b> K73
	♦ 6 5 4		A 10 9 5 2		• A Q 2
	♣ 10 7		♣ 963		<b>♣</b> A
	7♦, Lead 6♥		7♠, Lead 4♥ (Trumps		6♠, Lead 5♠ (Trumps
	(Trumps are 4-1)		are 3-2)		are 4-2)

In each case, how do you deal with the problem of entries?

				<ul> <li>KQ1095</li> <li>74</li> <li>A102</li> <li>J82</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>▲</li></ul>			<ul> <li>Board 9 Dealer North EW Vul</li> <li>43</li> <li>43</li> <li>A K Q J 6 3</li> <li>K 6 5 3</li> <li>7</li> </ul>
S 1♥ 4♥	W 2♣ P	N P X P	E 1♣ P P	South plays in 4♥ West leads A♣ and another Trumps are 3-2

₩ 2 <del>&amp;</del> P	N P X P	E 1♣ P P	South plays in 4♥ West leads A♣ and Trumps are 3-2	d another
<b>♦</b> .	1092 J987 A943	•	Dealer North EW Vul 4 3 A K Q J 6 3 K 6 5 3 7	<ul> <li>▼ 85</li> <li>• Q4</li> <li>◆ KQ1065</li> </ul>
	8 2	•	<ul> <li>K Q 10 9 5</li> <li>7 4</li> <li>A 10 2</li> <li>J 8 2</li> <li>Board 9</li> </ul>	▲ AJ76

1♥ 4♥

			•	<ul> <li>J986</li> <li>K92</li> <li>Q102</li> <li>Q82</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>◆</li> <li>▲</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>Board 10</li> <li>Dealer East</li> <li>●</li> <li>▲</li> </ul>
			•	<ul> <li>KQ107542</li> <li>A86</li> <li>KJ</li> <li>3</li> </ul>
S 1♠ 4♠	W X P	N 2♠ P	E P P P	South plays in 4♠ West leads Q♥ Trumps are 1-1

	▲ A		*	K	986 (92 Q102 Q82	▲	3
	<ul> <li>↓ Q J 1</li> <li>↓ A 9 5</li> <li>♣ A J 5</li> </ul>	3		C B K	Board 10 Dealer East Both Vul K Q 10 7 5 4 2 A 8 6	♥ ♦	7 5 3 8 7 6 4 K 10 9 7 6
2	W	N 2♠ P	E P P P	• K • 3			

1**≜** 4♠

				<ul> <li>KQ1082</li> <li>54</li> <li>QJ7</li> <li>Q85</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>Board 11</li> <li>Dealer South</li> <li>▲</li> <li>▲</li> <li>▲</li> </ul>
				<ul> <li>▲ J</li> <li>◆ AKQJ98</li> <li>◆ A53</li> <li>◆ K93</li> </ul>
S 1♥ 3♥ P	W P P P	N 1S 4♥	E P P	South plays in 4♥ West leads 2♦ Trumps are 3-2

		•	K Q 10 8 2 5 4 Q J 7 Q 8 5	
• 8	032		Board 11 Dealer South Love All	<ul> <li>★ 7653</li> <li>♥ 76</li> <li>♦ K1094</li> <li>★ A106</li> </ul>
		•	J A K Q J 9 8 A 5 3 K 9 3	
W P P P	N 1S 4♥	E P P	South plays in 4♥ West leads 2♦ Trumps are 3-2	

1♥ 3♥

	<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>♦</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>K 9</li> <li>K 8 2</li> <li>8 7 5 4</li> <li>A K 6 5</li> <li>Board 12 Dealer West NS Vul</li> </ul>	
	*				*
				QJ1087 5 A32 Q1093	
2♠	W P 3♥ P	N 1NT P P	E 2♥ P P	South plays in 3♠ West leads 10♥ Trumps are 4-2	

		*	К 9	
		•	K 8 2	
		•	8754	
		*	АК65	
<b>≜</b> 6	432			♠ A 5
<b>Y</b> 10	093		Board 12	Y AQJ764
♦ K	Q 10 9		Dealer West NS Vul	♦ J 6
🐥 J /	4			<b>♣</b> 872
		*	Q J 10 8 7	
		•	5	
		•	A 3 2	
			Q 10 9 3	
W	Ν	E	South plays in 3♠	
Р	1NT	27	West leads 10♥	
3♥	P	P	Trumps are 4-2	
Ρ	Ρ	P		

2♠ 3♠

				♥ ♦	A 8 7 A 8 7 A 8 6 4 2 7 3	
	<ul> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> </ul>			◆	Board 13 Dealer North Both Vul 2	<ul> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> <li>★</li> </ul>
				♥ ♦	Q J 10 6 5 4 2 K 7 3 K 5	
S 2♦ 4♥	W 2♠ P	N 1NT P P	E P P P		South plays in 4♥ West leads K♠ Trumps are 2-1	

				A 8 7	
			۲	A 8 7	
			٠	A 8 6 4 2	
			*	73	
🔶 KQJ	1065				♦ 943
<b>¥</b> 3				Board 13	🔻 К 9
🔶 J 5				Dealer North Both Vul	♦ Q 10 9
♣AQ.	J 8				♣ 109642
			٠	2	
			¥	Q J 10 6 5 4 2	
			•	K 7 3	
			*	К 5	
W	Ν	Ε		South plays in 4♥	
	1NT	Р		West leads K	
2♠	P	P		Trumps are 2-1	
Ρ	Ρ	Ρ			

2♦ 4♥

<ul> <li>▲</li> <li>●</li> <li>▲</li> <li>●</li> <li>▲</li> <li>●</li> <li>●</li></ul>			<ul> <li>AQ8</li> <li>86</li> <li>J109842</li> <li>87</li> <li>87</li> <li>Board 14 Dealer East Love All</li> <li>K2</li> <li>AKQJ75</li> </ul>
W 3♣ P P P P	N 3♦ 4♥ 5♦ P	E P P P P P	<ul> <li>A K Q J 7 S</li> <li>A K</li> <li>A 6 4</li> <li>South plays in 7*</li> <li>West leads K*</li> <li>Trumps are 3-2</li> </ul>

2**♣** 3♥ 4NT

7♥

<ul> <li>▲ J 9 3</li> <li>♥ 4 3</li> <li>♦ 6 3</li> <li>♣ K Q</li> </ul>	J 10 3 2		<ul> <li>♥</li> <li>◆</li> <li>◆</li> <li>◆</li> <li>♥</li> <li>♦</li> <li>♥</li> <li>♦</li> </ul>	A Q 8 8 6 J 10 9 8 4 2 8 7 Board 14 Dealer East Love All K 2 A K Q J 7 5 A K A 6 4	<ul> <li>▲ 107654</li> <li>♥ 1092</li> <li>♦ Q75</li> <li>♦ 95</li> </ul>
W 3♣ P P P	N 3♦ 4♥ 5♦ P	E P P P P P		South plays in 7♥ West leads K♣ Trumps are 3-2	

2**∳** 3♥

4NT

7♥

## Summary

- 1 Count Tricks
- 2 Determine Play Plan Type
- 3 Decide whether to draw Trumps?
- 4 Check Losers/Control
- 5 Check Trump Control
- 6 Check Entries