

PLAY & DEFENCE TIP No. 3

Play of the hand: Developing a Long suit

Declarer Play – Finding those tricks

- Count how many sure tricks you have and work out how many more you need.
- Try and work out how to establish the extra tricks needed.
- Establishing your longest and/or strongest suit is the most common approach.

Establish your longest/strongest suit

Contract 1NT by EAST – lead ♦Q by SOUTH

WEST	EAST
♠ AJ53	♠ 97
♥ Q43	♥ J65
♦ 943	♦ AK8
♣ K76	♣ A9843

- Win ♦A and then play on your longest/strongest suit (clubs)
- You will need to lose a club to establish the suit and generate 4 winners

Establish a side suit

Contract 4♥ by EAST – lead ♠K by SOUTH

WEST	EAST
♠ 832	♠ A96
♥ A3	♥ KQJ642
♦ A65	♦ J4
♣ KJ843	♣ Q2

- Win ♠A, draw trumps and then play on your longest/strongest suit (clubs)
- Playing the club suit allows you to discard a diamond loser

Play the honour from the short hand first

Does it matter how you play the honours as you establish a suit – answer is **yes**
In the example below – you **must** play ♣Q first, then cross over to the ♣K

Contract 3NT by EAST – lead ♠K by SOUTH

WEST	EAST
♠ 832	♠ A76
♥ 93	♥ AK72
♦ 865	♦ A1097
♣ AKJ43	♣ Q2

- If you play ♣A or ♣K first, then cross back to the ♣Q, you will be cut off from dummy and will not be able to enjoy the club winners