

have 'extra' tricks, then it means we can usually discard our losers if given the opportunity. We have already seen one example in Hand 2.

More tricky are the cases where the winners and losers add up to less than thirteen. In these cases it is often the right plan to try to make the extra tricks by ruffing the losers.

Hand 4
 South plays in 4♠.
 West leads the ♥3.

♠ Q J 10 8
 ♥ A J 10 6 5
 ♦ Q 6 3
 ♣ 8

♠ A K 6 5 3
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ 4
 ♣ Q 9 6 4

On this deal there are ten winners (five spades and five hearts) but only two losers (one club and one diamond). How can we make this work to our advantage? Well, the solution is to make an extra trick by ruffing a club in the dummy (the hand with the shorter trumps, note).

The opponents have led a heart (which could well be a singleton), so declarer must first draw trumps. Let us assume that they split 3-1. Now declarer can run off dummy's heart suit if he wishes, throwing some rubbish from his hand. South now concedes a club to the opposition and waits patiently until he regains the lead. At that point South can lead his club and ruff it on the table. In effect South makes six trump tricks and five heart tricks for a total of eleven winners and two losers.

It is important to realise that extra tricks can only be made by ruffing in the 'short hand' – in this case that's the North hand. Declarer makes five spade tricks plus one extra ruff for six in all. Ruffing a diamond in the South hand doesn't help, as declarer still only makes five spade tricks. This is a very important point, which will be explored in a later article. Players (even experienced ones) often make the fundamental mistake of trumping losers in the hand with the long trump suit. In essence they have achieved nothing by doing this. □

Top Table

Tony Forrester

Tony Forrester is the most capped England player. He has won most of the national trophies at least once and the Gold Cup an amazing ten times. Among his achievements are coming second in the 1987 Bermuda Bowl and winning the European Teams in 1991.



When did you start playing bridge?

My parents taught me after a selection of unsatisfactory O-levels. Curiously, my exam results improved after that. Most odd.

How often / where do you play?

Just major events. I have not played serious local bridge since my days at Wakefield, which I still remember fondly.

Do you always play with the same partners / team-mates? What do you expect of them?

I have always sought an eclectic mix of partners, because I feel you learn more from a varied diet of styles and theories. I have at least ten favourites over the years, which shows that the approach has worked.

What do you do for a living?

I write for the *Daily Telegraph* and dabble in sports betting on the side.

What are your favourite bridge books?

For technique superbly explained, Terence Reese's *The Expert Game*. For humour and fun, Skid Simon's classic *Rubber at the Club*.

What are your hobbies?

Any sport where you can hit, kick or throw a ball. Walking in the Black Mountains. And here's one you would not expect: shopping.

What would you change in bridge?

Improve dress code; scrap alerting procedure. Focus on 35+ age group of professionals who are looking for a hobby in later life. Streamline the EBU (sorry, it is too cumbersome).

What's the bridge success (so far) closest to your heart?

My first Gold Cup win comes close, but it has to be the European Championships with Andrew Robson in 1991. Probably the best bridge of my life.