

November 14, 2013
 NVBA I/N Lecture
 Declarer Play – Developing Tricks – crossruff
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Based on Barbara Seagram, in Saturday July 23, 2011 NABC Daily Bulletin.

North Deals
 None Vul

♠ K Q 10 3	♠ A 8 5 2		♠ J 7 6 4
♥ A 4 2	♥ K J 5 3		♥ Q 10 8 6
♦ 8 6	♦ K J 7 2		♦ 10 9
♣ 9 8 5 3	♣ J		♣ K Q 10

N
W E
S

♠ 9
♥ 9 7
♦ A Q 5 4 3
♣ A 7 6 4 2

5 ♦ by South
 Lead: ♠ K

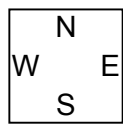
The easiest way to 11 tricks is to win the black aces and ruff losers back and forth, getting down to ♥ 9 7, ♦ A Q in hand and ♥ K J 5 3 in dummy. You will have all the tricks you need without having to guess the right play in hearts.

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 Crossruff Summary:

- 1) Count your losers -- determine you need to ruff some.
 - 2) Check your transportation -- you need to ruff to get back.
 - 3) Cash side-suit winners early so the opponents cannot ruff them later.
 - 4) Do not draw trumps if you need to save the trumps in the short hand for ruffing.
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South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6	♥ Q 10 8 4	♦ J 10 9	♣ A Q 10 8 5	♠ K J 9 5	♥ K 9 7 5	♦ K 7 6 4 2	♣ —
				♠ A Q 10 4	♥ A 6 3	♦ —	♣ K J 9 6 3 2



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥ ¹	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass	4 ♠

All pass

1. North is not quite strong enough to bid 1 ♦ holding five diamonds along with one or two four-card majors (needs at least 11 high-card points).
2. North's leap to 3 ♠ may seem conservative (some would bid 4 ♠), but a void in partner's first bid suit is not all it's cracked up to be. If partner's strength is in the void suit, the void is not worth that much. When partner is weak in the void suit, the void is worth its weight in gold.

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ J¹

1. The ♦ J is certainly tempting. Another possibility is a trump lead holding strong clubs, declarer's first-bid suit. Though singleton trump leads are normally not on the top of the list of recommended opening leads, nothing is etched in stone. As it happens, only a trump lead defeats the contract.

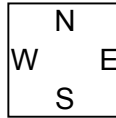
Count your losers: Six Clubs, two Hearts. Dummy's ♥ K takes care of one of your ♥. You need to ruff four ♣ losers in Dummy. Kantar says: With a void in each hand, a crossruff looms. Declarer can ruff four Clubs in dummy and four Diamonds in hand for eight trump tricks, and the top two hearts make 10. So what's the problem?

The problem is that before launching a straight crossruff, one should cash the necessary number of side-suit winners first. Declarer should cash the ♥ A and ♥ K early. Why?

Look at the East hand. If a crossruff is started early, East can discard a heart when a third club is ruffed. Now it is impossible to take two heart tricks. Also, when crossruffing, start by ruffing low in each hand, saving the higher trumps for the later ruffs.

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 Leslie Shafer on cross-ruffing before drawing trumps (from July 30, 2010 NABC Daily Bulletin)
 [Sorry, no hand is given] When there is a short suit in dummy and a different short suit in declarer's hand, I'd probably want to trump back and forth and score my trumps separately (one at a time). If I were to pull trumps, I'd use two trumps on every trick. If you do decide to crossruff, it is important to cash your side-suit tricks early. You are not pulling trumps, so the opponents will still have a few trumps towards the end of the play. If you attempt to cash your side ♣ A and ♣ K at the end of the deal, most likely the opponents will be able to ruff them.
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♠ 3
 ♥ Q 10 9 7
 ♦ A Q 9 7 5
 ♣ A K 5



♠ A J 6 2
 ♥ A K J 8
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J 8 7 4
 6 ♥ by South
 Lead: ♠ K

Count your losers: Three Spades, two Clubs. You can ruff four of those losers in Dummy. Count winners: One Spade, One Diamond, Two Clubs, Eight trumps. So far, so good.

Watch the order in which you play the cards! Cash side-suit winners first, or while you are ruffing Diamonds West will be discarding Clubs and will later ruff your Clubs.

Here is the board with all four hands

	♠ 3 ♥ Q 10 9 7 ♦ A Q 9 7 5 ♣ A K 5										
♠ K Q 10 7 ♥ 5 4 3 2 ♦ 4 2 ♣ 6 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 8 5 4 ♥ 6 ♦ K J 10 8 3 ♣ Q 10 9
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W		E									
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