**Play of the Hand: Drawing Trumps**

**Suit Contracts - Drawing Trumps**
With unbalanced hands it is usually right to play in a suit contract.

**Draw trumps**
In a suit contract it is usually correct to DRAW TRUMPS before you play anything else.
The usual principles of card play apply:
Contract 4♣ - Lead ♥K

- ♠️10986
- ♥️4
- ♦️AK6
- ♣️A652
- ♥️AQJ
- ♥️632
- ♦️Q532
- ♣️K3

Win with ♥️A and draw trumps first by playing ♠️A, ♠️K and ♠️QS. If you play a diamond first, one of the opponents might be able to ruff with a small trump. Play diamonds when you have drawn trumps.

**Stop drawing trumps when your opponents have none left**
- carrying on with the above example
  - ♠️6
  - ♥️4
  - ♦️AK6
  - ♣️A652
  - ♠️J
  - ♥️32
  - ♦️Q532
  - ♣️K3

You have drawn all the outstanding trumps and these are the cards you have left.
If you play the ♠️J, you will have none left. Now you will lose two more heart tricks because you can’t ruff the second one.

**If the only trump outstanding is the best one – don’t draw it**
Contract 4♠️ by East - Lead ♦️A

- ♠️A963
- ♥️AQJ42
- ♦️KJ3
- ♣️3
- ♠️K742
- ♥️K5
- ♦️Q942
- ♣️1062

South leads the ♠️A and then ♠️K. Trump that and play ♦️A and ♦️K.
LEAVE ♦️Q OUTSTANDING
Start playing your longest suit, which is hearts – (remember to play the ♥️K first) the player with the ♥️Q can trump at any time but you are safe.

**If you had played a 3rd round of trumps this would have been the position**
- using the same hand as above

- ♠️ –
- ♥️AQT42
- ♦️KJ3
- ♣️ –
- ♠️7
- ♥️K5
- ♦️Q942
- ♣️10

Now, you will lose another club and you will go 1 down by losing a trump, the ♠️A, ♠️A and another ♠️.
If you had left the last trump out when you started playing hearts, you wouldn’t lose another ♠️ trick as there would have been a trump left in your hand.