

## DUMMY REVERSAL by Maritha Pottenger

Ironically, Dummy Reversal plays can be made by beginners as well as advanced players. In both cases, Declarer is taking ruffs in the long hand. The difference is, intermediate and advanced players realize that taking ruffs in the long hand can be dangerous. (You might lose control of the hand if too many trumps are in the opponents' hands after you have shortened your long-trump hand.) However, there are times when Dummy Reversal will yield an extra trick in the play.

### For Dummy Reversal, you need:

- 1) Good trumps in dummy (and at least 3 of them in a 5-3 fit) so that they are high enough to draw your opponents' outstanding trumps when you are ready to do so.
- 2) You need lots of entries to dummy in order to lead the suit (perhaps several times) that you are ruffing in the long-trump hand and in order to return to dummy when you are finally ready to pull the opponents' trumps.
- 3) You generally need to decide on a Dummy Reversal early on (like Trick 1) and review the sequence of plays you expect, double-checking your entries and transportation, and making sure everything is likely to work before you embark upon your venture.

In a Dummy Reversal, you trump enough times in the long-trump hand that it becomes the short-trump hand, and you end up drawing trumps from the dummy (the original short-trump hand). Note the differences between Dummy Reversal and High Cross Ruff and Ruffing in the Short Trump Hand.

With a **High Cross Ruff**, you never pull trumps (or might pull only one round of trumps). You cash all the side suit winners that you need for your bid and then play the hand on a total cross ruff (trumping one suit in dummy and another suit in your hand). This is possible when your trumps and dummy's trumps are high enough that no one can over-trump you.

When **Ruffing in the Short Trump Hand**, you attempt to trump losers in the short-trump hand before pulling trumps. (The Short Trump Hand is usually Dummy, but it could be Declarer after, for example, a Jacoby Transfer sequence.) You do, however, eventually pull trumps.

With **Dummy Reversal**, you trump in the long-trump hand—several times—and eventually pull trumps from the hand that was originally the short-trump hand. Here is a sample of a classic Dummy Reversal hand. Your contract is 6H. Declarer has: x AKQ107 Q10xx xxx and Dummy has: xxxx J98 AKJ AKx. If you count winners & losers in terms of the long trump hand, you see 5 heart tricks, 4 diamonds & 2 clubs. The fly in the ointment is that you appear to have both a spade and a club loser. The lead is a top spade, followed by another top spade. With Dummy Reversal, you trump the 2<sup>nd</sup> spade HIGH and lead a diamond to dummy. Trump another spade HIGH and lead a club to dummy. Trump the 4<sup>th</sup> spade HIGH and lead the 7 of hearts to dummy (overtaking) and pulling trump (which must be 3-2 for you to make the slam) from dummy, discarding a low club from your hand. Notice that the long-trump hand (which started out with 5) ended up becoming the short-trump hand (with only 2) and the original short-trump hand (with 3 trumps) had good enough trumps to pull all three rounds of opponents' trumps.

**When you seem one trick short of your bid, check to see if a Dummy Reversal will bring in that extra trick for you!**