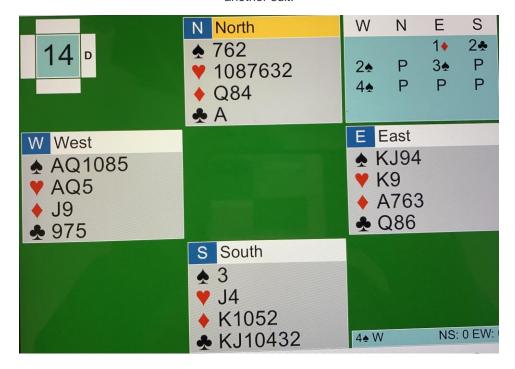
When playing winners in trump contracts, discard to make different shortages in the declarer's and dummy's hands.

When the declarer or the dummy has strength in a suit opposite a shortage, the declarer may be able to play the strength and discard losing cards in another suit. When discarding on strength, look to make a shortage in another suit.



Partner east opens 1 ♦, south overcalls 2 ♣ and you are west with ♠AQ1085 ♥ AQ5 ♦J9 ♣975. After you respond 2♠, north passes, partner west raises to 3♠ and with game strength, you go on to 4♠.

North leads ♣A and the dummy east reveals ♠KJ94 ♥K9 ♦A763 ♣Q86.

After winning ♣A, north switches to ♥6. North looks to have no clubs left as north would have continued the suit south bid if north could. You win ♥K (unblocking with a doubleton) and draw trumps in three rounds. You now lead west's ♥A and ♥Q. On ♥Q, discard east's ♣8, making a shortage in clubs in east's hand. You have a shortage in diamonds in west's hand so make sure you have a different shortage in each hand. You can now lead a club for south to win ♣ K but can trump the third round of clubs to make ten tricks.

Quite a few players discarded \$3 from east's hand and left themselves open to later losing two clubs to south. Some of these players were saved later when south won \$K\$ and led \$K\$ to set up east's \$Q\$ as a winner. Our games are full of generous opponents always looking to help the declarers who go off the track!