

# **BRIDGE at SEA**

## **Managing the Trump Suit**

### **There are three principal roles for the trump suit:**

- 1) Ruffing losers
- 2) Keeping control of side suits
- 3) Providing entries between the two hands.

To score a trick by ruffing does not necessarily mean that you have added to the number of winners. If the ruff occurs in the hand with the longer trump holding, typically it is just a substitute for cashing a long trump card. The one sure way to produce extra winners is to ruff with the cards in the shorter trump holding, which is usually in the Dummy.

### **Whether or not the trump suit is adequate depends on three factors:**

- 1) How many trump cards you have
- 2) Their quality
- 3) The amount of work that must be done with them.

With enough cards to perform the required tasks and to draw the Opponents' trumps, the situation is favorable for Declarer.

### **You will usually want to draw the outstanding trumps, whenever:**

- a) Your trump situation is favorable, and you have no immediate use for the trump cards in Dummy.
- b) You have a long, established side suit that is ready to run.
- c) You are threatened by a possible defensive ruff.

### **Generally, it is better to delay drawing their trumps, whenever:**

- a) Your trump situation is unfavorable.
- b) You have a lot of work to do in the side suits first.
- c) The missing trumps divide badly, and you might lose control of the hand.
- d) You have a fast trump loser, usually the Ace, and you cannot afford to give up the lead right away.

Never allow the quality of your trump cards to influence the decision about whether or not you should draw them. The failure to do so, simply because your suit is weak, increases the risk of defensive ruffs.