

Answers weak twos

- 1) 2Sp surely. You might have preferred to overcall 1Sp but you can't and 2Sp doesn't seem outlandish.
- 2) 2NT strong balanced –what you have. BTW we don't play the unusual NO Trump over weak two openings.
- 3) Double looks right –short in opp's suit and general values everywhere else.
- 4) 3D –not a problem as people are always saying these days
- 5) Double is best when u think of it -3D would not be outrageous but there's no need to bid that way.
- 6) Pass. See notes from endless lessons on weak stayman. And I do mean “see “ notes on. If you haven't got it yet then try a re-read?
- 7) 3SP. “ That's a bit easy isnt it ? Doesn't everyone know to bid strong takeouts with one 5 card major? “. “Sad to relate that no there are those who trot out Stayman with such hands ..” “ Come . you jest surely ?” “ No no joke”
- 8) You are supposed to unblock the K hrts (get it out the way) and play it on your partner's Q. Then you will have a low heart to lead back. Trickier perhaps would have been if the declarer had played the Ace on your partner's Q. You would still need to unblock. But is all this unblocking safe ? It should be as partner's lead of an hon versus NTs is supposed to contain 3 Hons e.g QJ103 and for that matter if they were of an imaginative bent and had led the Q from QJ93 the unblock would still be best.
- 9) (i) You seem to be close to 9 tricks but will have to lose the lead a number of times to get those 9 tricks. In such cases all other things being equal you should duck the lead .

Let them win their Q Sp. It may be after you have won the lead of the J sp and played the K Hrts the player who wins the Ace hrts has no spades left to lead.

I am indebted to me learned friend Lynda Gent for the name of *waiting when not so weak* for this type of play.

9(ii) win Ace spades and notice straight away that the leader has done you a big favour with their lead of the Q Sp. Having such good trumps there is no reason not to draw the opponent's trumps. Which we do. Then we go back to the spades and lead the 4 and finesse the 10. This wins. Check why. Then cash the K spades and discard a club.

I can imagine some good students did the finessing of spades and discard of a club at tricks 2 and 3. I have to say this is very wrong (sorry) and they should always draw the trumps first , before discarding ,if this can be done with no risk.