

Homework answers -leads vs slams 17 Nov

Some of these questions were a bit challenging -more "A" than "O" level.
One in particular I needed to double check. Pass mark 65%

- 1) 8 hrts -no second choice 2) 7 diamonds or Q Sp 3) 9 sp or 4 cl
- 4) J sp or 8 hrts
- 5) Asp then A hrts or Ace Hrts then Ace sp. [this hand was included as a joke !]

The point of this next question was to draw your attention to the auction that revealed that N had Hearts (they bid them) and South therefore had Spades (or they wouldnt have used Stayman).

In general one would choose leads that the dummy or declarer didnt hold.

- 5) Q d 6) 9 Cl 7)K d or 6 cl
- 8) 5d NB not very impressed with this but all other choices are more flawed
- 9) Ace sp followed by K sp (again a joke which I hope you got)
- 10) 3 d 11) 2 d 12) Q cl or 2 D 13) K d 14) Q d
- 15) against 7 suit the traditional lead was always a trump. The thinking was that we cant afford to help declarer one jot and as surely they have excellent trumps anyway the lead of a trump wont help them. Thats good enough for me.

against 7 NT you defend just as against 6NT -play it safe and passive.
6sp is your best effort.

- 16) You have 7 tricks on top and need to look for two more.
Hearts might provide one of them (if the Chinese finesse worked) but you would still need to look for another.
Much better to find a suit that might provide two extra tricks. That suit is diamonds.
We are going to establish diamond tricks by playing the suit until the last few diamonds are winners. Like this :-

T1) Ace sp T2) Ace d T3) K d T4) small diamond *which the opponents win*

If we are in luck the remaining diamonds are both winners.

We win the return and go to the dummy to play the diamonds.

What happens if both diamonds are NOT winners ?

Thats not good but we will continue playing diamonds until the last card is a winner. We may also have to fall back on the Chinese finesse in hearts in that eventuality.

Could it have been right to try to establish *clubs* rather than diamonds ?

It might but will take longer and require even greater luck.

- 17) 7 tricks on top . The play is to w.w.w. in spades and then play to establish hearts
 T1) small sp T2) small sp T3) Ace sp T4) J hrts
- 18) Ah HA ! theres a shortage in dummy .
 T1) K Hrts T2) Ace Hrts T3) heart ruff T4) Start drawing trumps
- 19) Ah Ha ! theres a wide open suit (the clubs).
 Need to discard the w.o.s. on winners. Here we can afford to draw trumps first.
- T1) Ace sp T2) K s T3) Q sp . [Now the trumps have been drawn]
 T4) Ace d T5) Kd T6) small diamond ruffed
 [Now the diamonds have been established - *Ojala*]
 T7) K hrts T8) play winning diamonds and throw losing clubs.
- 20) At trick 1 partner played the lowest heart in the pack. That was a signal that they could not assist in making tricks in hearts and in particular did not hold the A or J of hearts. So its odd that our K held. BUT we trust our partner and so switch (to a diamond - a safe switch)
- If partner had played the 9 hrts they would be saying they did have the A or J hrts so we would continue with hrts.