

Answers –penalty doubles

1) well if you don't double here you never will

This has everything going for it – good trumps (KJ63) – obvious lead (a singleton *of partner's suit*). If you don't double then you can bid 2D or a full blooded 3NT.

2) Hmm ...well a double could well work –we should get 4 x spade tricks sooner or later

(if declarer draws trumps we will get the 4 and if they decline to draw trumps we will quite possibly score 3 ruffs and the ace) – partner opened the bidding so will have 2.5 tricks.... (that was an early definition of an opening bid b.t.w. 2.5 quick tricks) –we are quite likely to beat it. But things can go wrong and if the 1 level is too tight for you , then you will have to bid something else. NTs presumably. With 6-9 you would bid 1NT . With 11-12 you would bid 2NT. You have 10. Up to you. (2NT for me if not double)

3) I expect we would beat 2C with a double BUT you cant go doubling the opps when you have 4 of partner's suit. Lots of reasons but it would be just nuts. That's the main reason. Go to 4H . How ? well nobody I dare say cares very much how you bid to 4H and just bidding 4H is fine by me. For the scientists amongst you , bid 3C (the opps suit) and that is a D.G.R. in a competitive auction.

4)Double. Partners 12 + our 12 are amply sufficient (!) to beat 1NT

5) now 2D is the bid. And partner will pass knowing you have a long suit and 6-9 pts. Verily.

6) Well if you want to play safely then you return a diamond. A safe (non)switch. Theres no real alternative but if you want to gamble partner has high cards in hearts or clubs you would lead those suits BUT it could be disasterous and the safe diamond return is recommended.

7) Now there is a switch which is safe and might pay dividends. We lead a heart. Whenever there are no hons (no A or K or Q or J) in dummy on your right then you can lead that suit (safely) whatever you hold. Lead the K Hrts. Well you normally lead the highest from two cards don't you ?

8) 1S-----3H (16+ pts)
3Sp-----4Sp
Pass.

9) If you overruff that will be the last trick you make this hand.

If you decline to overruff you will make (in time) 2 x spades to go with the A + K Diamonds partner has so far taken.
You work out why .

Heres declarer's hand if you want to see that.

98765
KJ2
J87
AK

