

1)

(i) K hrts cover an hon with an hon

(ii) K diamonds

(iii) 2 clubs *

***"hmmm how come I don't cover an hon with an hon in this one but I did in (i) above ? "

Answer This time we can see *two hons* [the Q + J] and the intention is to cover the 2nd hon.

"you are not going to spring any exceptions on us about this I hope ?"

Answer Yes but it's obscure and will keep.

2)

(i) QHrts [split hons]

(ii) J diamonds (split hons)

(iii) the 2 clubs,

3)

(i) the 3 diamonds NB this could be wrong if declarer has led a singleton diamond; Against that if declarer has say Qxx diamonds in hand and you played your Ace then declarer would soon make 2 diamond tricks. Despite the small risk it is correct to play the 3 diamonds when a diamond is led.

(ii) J hearts (S * * * * H * * * * s)

(iii) K clubs

4)

(a) 2D Michaels the majors

(b) 2Sp (Michaels a major and a minor) NB partner will bid 2NT to ask which minor

5) 1st J hrts 2nd 4 Hrts 3rd Q sp

6) and this isn't obvious (leastways I didn't think it was !)

Clearly we have a possible *desperate* diamond finesse we can take; 1st though we might check to see how the hearts break ie if they break 3---3 then there is no need to take the diamond finesse.

You might play like this; Ace hrts; K hrts; small heart.....

The opponents win this heart and m-a-y-b-e the hearts broke and your 3 hearts is now a winner.

And if they didn't ? Just take the diamond finesse.

Some will play the 4 clubs out first claiming this in some way is better Hmmmmm

In general (and as it is only the weakest students who do play the "easy tricks first")

I feel justified in suggesting that a better play is almost always to keep the easy tricks back and get on with the difficult stuff first. Yes yes there are reasons for that preservation of entries being amongst them but perhaps you could just do like the better players do regardless ?

7) open 3NT. Well done.