

Answers leads vs slams

1) a) 8 cl or 8 di go passive

b) 4 sp . For me this auction suggests declarer will establish hearts and or clubs

And make 12 tricks easily enough. (Remember neither declarer nor dummy sound like they are balanced). So I make the aggressive move of a low spade (hoping partner has the K or Ace or something !)

Will we beat the contract very often ? probably not but the aggressive spade gives us more hope than a passive club or diamond.

2) a) a passive 8 diamonds

b)(an aggressive 2 hrts

Now I am judging that in (a) the opps were essentially balanced . Yes I know the declarer replied 3S to the 2NT opener BUT they would do that on this sort of hand AQ876----Q65---K87---J2 ie they were prepared to play in 6Sp or 6NT.

For the usual reasons when the opps are balanced I made a passive lead.

In (b) I think a more aggressive lead is called for as the oppos stand to be more distributional

3) (a) 8 diamonds or Q clubs, 8 diamonds is best . Q clubs could lose out big time if these were the clubs

A103
QJ8 -----|-----
K94

If u lead a club u wont make a club but if u don't (lead the suit) u will make one. Funny that.

(b) just the same

Go for the 8 diamonds the most passive lead u have.

(Why not the 5 spades ? quite right . That would do too. I prefer the 8 diamonds as the 8 is an obviously high top of nothing card as opposed to the 5 sp which might look low. Still not much in it.

4) a) Q diamonds (3 of clubs only a shade behind)

b) 3 clubs (Q of diamonds only a shade behind). Ha ha.

Ok nothing to choose between them really. If you want to take the biggest chance the club is the lead-if u want to combine some safety with attack the Q diamonds has it.

5) (i) 3D well done a reverse by responder suggesting the partnership has enough points for game . Its forcing of course.

(ii) 3Sp –also well done. Partner's 3H was a checkback (and it didn't work) BUT it hurts us not a jot to try our own checkback call of 3Sp. Perhaps partner has five spades.

6) the players have missed their 8 card fit in hearts.

Opener should have started with 1Sp and then rebid hearts *twice*.

Responder bid perfectly in case the idea that they were at fault needs scotching.

7) Yes. Draw eliminate and throw.

Ok ? what ? you want me to dot the i's and cross the t's ? Gladly.

Win ace hrts. Draw trumps. Eliminate clubs by playing A + K. Lead the J Hrts to throw the leader in.

They will be forced to lead a diamond into our A + Q or give us a ruff and discard.

8) Well partner hasn't got the Q Hrts –or they would have played a higher heart to encourage. What 4 tricks are you going to get to beat the contract then ?

And I can see there is more than one answer to this . But cashing the K Hrts isnt amongst them.

Here is an answer.

Partner has the Ace clubs. (so we lead a club. Partner wins and goes back to our hearts and we make The Ace hrts the Ace clubs the J Hrts and the K hrts). Now that's not unreasonable. And there is nothing much more likely.

Let me know though if you can come up with an alternative serious suggestion. There is one which I didn't think of when I set the question.