

Answers switching

- 1) 3 clubs 2) 8 clubs

You could in both 1 + 2 have returned a diamond on the basis that it is a "safe" lead.

Which is true but ...it must make more sense to make a lead that is safe *and* might generate some tricks if possible. (And it is).

3) and yes you would hope that partner was up on *suit preference signals* and chose a particular diamond at trick 1 to indicate to us which suit she would like next led ..(would your partner ? would you ?)

On the basis that partner has NOT indicated any choice we should lead the 8 clubs

- 4) 6 clubs.

No 2nd choice for Q3+ Q4

5) 1H-----1S
2NT-----3H CHECKBACK
4H

(ii) 1H-----1S
1NT -----3H (three not two)
4H

- 6) (i) pass (ii) 2S

Yes ? (i) is not [so] weak and (ii) is.

- 7) pass. Partner has a string of hearts and 6-----9 pts. Quite likely 2H will make and anyway any bid from you will make matters worse

- 8) (i) the trumps should be drawn straight away and in the following order:

- 1) K sp 2) Q sp 3) 2 sp

You play the spades this way in case the suit breaks 4-----1 and the left hand opponents holds J987

e.g A1054

J987 -----1----- 6

KQ32

After the Ksp , then the Q sp you will see the right hand opponent show out. So can finesse the 10

Yes preserving the tenace well done.

- (ii) 1) A Diamonds 2) 3 diamonds and finesse the 10 diamonds 3) K diamonds discard a heart

Then (and only then) draw trumps. Any variation on that deserves to go off (as the opponents will belatedly grab the A + K + Q hearts)

- 8) Partner has a solid seven card minor suit with few if any outside honours e.g

Q-----765-----AKQJ1053----76

You should pass.

