

Answers -blocking/unblocking

- 1) trick 1) lead 4 Hrts --partner plays K Hrts --declarer wins Ace Hrts*
- trick 2) declarer leads a diamond and partner wins with the Ace)
- trick 3) partner leads the J hrts [wins]
- trick 4) partner leads 2 Hrts

* am tempted not to comment on why declarer won with the Ace hrts at trick 1 and await the flood of emails from one regular apoplectic correspondent in Winchester but hey lifes too short - the winning with the Ace with no w.w.w, is a common enough expert practise. It is done when a w.w.w. can hardly gain (because declarer has only 2 hearts and can only hold up for 1 round anyway); two good things may happen when a declarer boldly wins without waiting -i) the defenders misjudge and think the declarer is stronger than they are in the led suit (and thats why they didnt hold up) ii) the defenders have more room to block the suit (to mess up)

- 2) trick 1) lead 4 Hrts --partner plays K Hrts --
- trick 2) declarer leads the 2 hrts

simple maxim -when you have only two cards left in the suit you are leading back , then lead the highest. e.g with Q4 lead Q with 92 lead 9 with K4 lead K.

With more cards than two in the suit you are leading back lead a low one e.g with Q42 lead 2 with 983 lead the 3 with K74 lead the 4.

- 3) at trick 5 the winning play by you is to lead hearts and probably to lead the K Hrts , and then the J Hrts and then a third heart, -in other words you are relying on partner to have good long hearts (something like A10xx or even Axxx)
- Not very easy to arrive at that lead with accuracy but counting the declarer's points (as ever) is a big help. The following info was gleaned in the first three tricks.

(i) declarer has Q sp [2 pts] -we know this because on our lead of the 3 sp dummy won with the Ace sp *and partner signalled with the 2sp*

(ii) Declarer has the K clubs [3 pts] -we know this because they played the K at trick two

(iii) Declarer has the Q diamonds [2 pts] -we know this because declarer played a low diamond to the J and our partner did not beat it with the Q diamonds

At trick 4 we took the lead with the Ace diamonds.

Knowing that declarer had those 7 pts (as above) tells us it is partner who has the Ace hrts.

We dont know how many hearts partner has -must be at least three (we know from the bidding) but if it is four or more we will beat the contract by leading the hearts from the top.

And if you don't ? (lead a heart?) Declarer we know has 9 tricks .

We know this because in addition to counting points we also count declarers tricks.

Declarers 9 tricks are [A + K + Q sp] and [A + K + Q clubs] and [J + 10 + Q diamonds];

So if you didn't lead a heart then declarer says thankyou very and claims the contract.

4) 1S-----2C (start of a DGR)
 2D-----4S
 4NT-----5D
 6S

i) Q Hrts led which we win with the Ace

need to get rid of our hearts before drawing trumps

- (ii) J clubs -overtake with Ace
- (iii) K cl -discarding a heart
- (iv) Q cl -discarding a heart
- (v) now start drawing trumps

The opps will take their Ace sp but when they lead a heart we have none left so can ruff that lead.

5) 2NT -----3C stayman
 3Sp -----4NT blackwood agreeing the last bid suit
 5H -----6S

(i) Q hrts lead which we win with the K

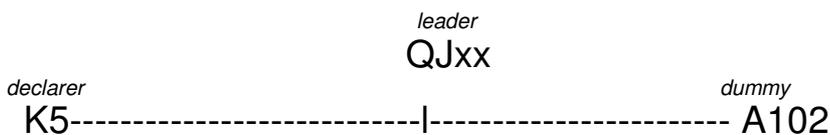
we have two losers in a diamond and a club and need to discard one of them

- (ii) draw trumps
- (iii) draw trumps

(iv) lead the 5 hrts to the 10 ie we have finessed the opening leader for the J Hrts

(v) play the ACe hrts and discard a losing club (or diamond).

The play hinged on the heart suit which was assumed to be something like



The lead of the Q promised the J; the declarer was thus able to finesse the 10 with some comfort.