

Homework answers –dangerous defences

- 1) We are going to defend quietly here –passively and not take risks.
We have two tricks already and fair chances of a third with the K clubs. Surely it is not impossible that partner may have something to contribute too . ?
So after the A + K diamonds we lead a heart. And sit back and wait.
- 2) This one looks decidedly dodgy (and dangerous !) . I am fearful that declarer will draw trumps and play out their winning hearts (I bet they have the Ace) and throw losers away.
If that is the case there is no time to be lost – we need to get trick but fast.
A lead of a small club (or even the K if u must) is needed. Maybe partner has the Ace and maybe the contract is going 1 off.
[[some might object that partner could have the Ace hearts and declarer the Ace clubs .
That is true but is irrelevant because if that is the case you can never beat the contract whatever you lead]]
- 3) Go safe –go passive and find a safe exit. Here that is a third heart.
Any other lead is flawed though ask me why sometime if u cant see it.
- 4) ah ha ! partner has bid 2H which is 4th suit forcing (and shows approx 13-15);
well NTS are no problem but 3 ? or more ?
A bid of 4NT is quantitative [remember partner’s last bid was artificial] so is right.
- 5) well if this is how you bid you probably know what to bid next.
For myself I don’t bid this way (preferring a 4NT bid to the Stayman enquiry);
In the auction as it is given you might bid 4NT I suppose but who knows whether partner will think that that call is Blackwood or quantitative.
Better to avoid the problem by dropping Stayman when very strong.
- 6) Win with K sp. Lead the J sp at trick two (and a third spade if the J sp is allowed to hold).
This is to ensure there are no blockages in the spade suit.

Ie if the spades were like this (and they are quite likely to be something like this)

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                AQ3
108642 -----|----- KJ5
                97
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Had you led the 5 dummy would win with the Ace and the suit would be blocked.

Declarer would have done a lot better to play the 3 at trick one note.

- 7) 2NT (10-12)
- 8) The 2 sp to the Q for a finesse.
Then if the Q won.....
Lead the Ace and hope the King drops.
A mongrel finesse.
Anyone who led the J cant ever make the contract as the J will be covered by the King.