

Homework obtaining ruffs

- 1) Q diamonds or 4 clubs yes. Noone leads a doubleton at the start of a hand unless there is NO alternative.
- 2) Win with Ace clubs, Now what ?

Either : - (i) send a club back to create a void and possibly obtain a ruff

(ii) lead a diamond as there is a very weak holding in dummy and partner may be able to take a number of diamond tricks

How do you decide ? well you cant really but perhaps any diamond tricks partner has can wait (the dummy doesn't look so long+strong anywhere that diamond losers can be thrown from declarer's hand.)

The club wins it for me.

- 3) Im going to give partner a heart ruff or look for a new partner. It is obvious partner has a doubleton heart as she has no right leading it back otherwise. One other thing –must jump with Ace spades to get in quick to lead hearts for ruffs before partner runs out of trumps
- 4) Well on declarer's play of the Ace + King diamonds we took the opportunity to play a High-Low to show a doubleton. This an important thing to do and is called a distributional signal.Partner will now know we had only 2 x diamonds and may give us a ruff.
- 5) 3Sp –strong takeout showing 5 cards 13+ pts
- 6) 4NT –quantitative NB don't use stayman with very strong hands
- 7) Trick 1) Ace hrts T 2) Ace diamonds T3) 4 spades to the J spades (WINS) T4) K diamonds
Trick 5) spade to the Q spades (WINS) . T6) Ace spades.
- 8) This is harder until you see that it is easier ... You are going to establish the (long suit in) the dummy. Entries are few however and we really will need to leave the Ace trumps in dummy to be used to cross to the dummy at a suitable point. There are variations to the following (including NOT drawing any trumps until Trick 5) but this is a fair blue print of how to play such hands:

Trick 1) Ace Hrts T2) Q sp T3) Ks p T4) Small diamond to the Q for a winning finesse. T5) Ace diamonds T6) small diamond ruffed in declarers hand T7) over to the Ace spades (and drawing the last trump in the process) ... T8) play wning diamond T9) play winning diamond

- 9) The methods are to ruff a heart in dummy OR to draw trumps and take a diamond finesse (barrack rooms lawyers will think theres a third but they are wrong).

So which is best ?

Well if you go for the ruff in dummy ie

Trick 1) Win Ace hrts T2) small heart *to create a void in dummy* . Later ruff a heart in dummy and finally draw trumps you will make your contract normally without recourse to the diamond finesse.

If you drew trumps straight away and took a diamond finesse then you make the contract if the diamond finesse works and go down if it doesn't.

Pretty clear that going for the heart ruff is better I would have thought (and incidentally , this line will make 11 tricks if the diamond finesse also happens to “work”).