

Answers low leads

- 1) play the J. This surely is going to win as partner's low lead of the 5 was from an hon (e.g Q85).
At trick 2 it would almost certainly be poor play to cash the Ace. (for one thing it might get ruffed and for another , it would establish the K as a winner).
So we switch to 9 diamonds or 3 clubs. Take a minus mark if you said the 3 diamonds.
- 2) again partner's lead of the 5 looks to be from an hon e.g K865. So we can play the J which will win. Now either play (i) the Ace and then the 7 OR (ii) lead the 2 at trick two. Either way our side should take the first 4 tricks. Line (i) is normal.
- 3) Play the Ace NB we KNOW declarer has the Q so playing the J would be foolhardy.
Switch to the 9 diamonds at trick 2
- 4) Well if South had remembered that we can raise a suit 1 level higher after a take out doubleie bid 3Spthat might have shut everyone else up (and would be a better call)
- 5) Had someone asked you why you alerted 3D you would have explained that your side were playing extended stayman and that the 3Diamond bid asked you to say which three card majors you held.
As you have three spades , your next call will be 3S.
NB partner held something like AQ876 ---AQ98 ----3----Q42
- 6) N should play (or say) STOP and then bid 2C .
N should play the Alert card (or say Alert) when they see S bid 2D
The subsequent calls of 2NT and 3NT are deemed to be "natural" and do not require alerting
- 7) (i) win the diamond lead in dummy.
Then lead a small heart to the J for a finesse
Then draw 3 rounds of spades.
Return to the Diamond winner in dummy.
Lead a small heart to the Q hearts for another finesse.

(ii) This one is more expert.
win the diamond lead in dummy.
Then lead a small heart to the J for a finesse
Then draw 3 rounds of spades.
Return to the Diamond winner in dummy.
Lead a small heart to the Q hearts for another finesse.
Play the Ace hearts.
Lead a small diamond which the opponents will win.
Now the opponents have the unenviable choice of opening clubs or giving a ruff and discard. (You effectively eliminated the side suits and endplayed the opponents with a throwin)
- 8) (i) w.w.w. in diamonds ie duck the opening diamond lead and the subsequent diamond lead.
Win the Ace diamonds. Now come to hand (with the Ace clubs as good as anything) and lead a spade to the J for a finesse. Even if the finesse fails then the player on lead may have no diamonds left and you will have 9 tricks.

(ii) also a bit harder
w.w.w. in diamonds ie duck the opening diamond lead and the subsequent diamond lead.
Win the Ace diamonds. Now come to hand (with the Ace clubs as good as anything) and lead a spade to the 9 for a finesse. The finesse will fail...BUT hopefully it will lose to an Hon ie the Q or K. If the player on lead has no diamonds left they will have to lead a club or heart and you can win and next take a finesse of the J spades.

NB with 543-----AJ9 finesse the 9 first *then* the J ie always take the "harder" (less likely finesse) first and follow with the easier , second.

