

Answers –switching

1) the only safe exit at trick 2 is another heart.

NB you lead a heart NOT because you expect to get a heart trick ever BUT because all the alternatives are dangerous and your side could lose out.

Leave it at that but if want an illustration of how any other lead would lose you a trick imagine declarer's hand is a normal looking :

J10862

876

A8

A105

If you test what would happen if you led a spade , diamond or club you will find declarer can make one more trick than they would have if you hadn't led that suit.

2) Now a heart lead is of course safe and fine...BUT you should try a little harder. Here a low club is the right switch.

OHHHHHH ! why is it sometimes right to make the safe lead back to a KQj type suit and why sometimes to open a new suit ?! HELP my head hurts.

Calm down and lets look at various club possibilities.

(I) Dummy
876 you
 Q932

Declarer
AK

Here a club lead would prove useless BUT would not cost a trick

(II) dummy
876 You
 Q932

Declarer
A65

Here a club lead would be quite good (as partner has the K + J)

(III) dummy
J76 You
 Q932

Declarer
AK5

Here a club lead would be a disaster BECAUSE the J in dummy would make a trick
Conclusion –if there are no hons in dummy a lead is alays safe and GOOD

3) lead a club (best) as either dummy wins or partner has the Ace.

Second best –lead a spade (a trump)

Anyone who leads a diamond iswell its Christmas so I wont say but I will think it.

4) (i) 4Sp (ii) 1Sp (iii) 1Sp (iv) 2Sp

5) (i) 3Sp strong takeout (ii) 2C stayman (iii) 3NT (iv) 2C [weak]stayman

6) if you were declarer surely you would relish a heart lead or club or spade lead.
NB as declarer you had AKJ in clubs and A1076 in hearts and AJ4 in spades.

The only lead which doesn't help you in 6NT is a diamond because you already hold the A K Q ie it wouldn't help you get extra tricks.

So a diamond was the best lead.

How was the leader to work that out ? they held :-

Q65

J952

983

Q83

And it was the suit that they held no honours in and therefore could not lose a trick by leading.

7) (a) this is hard and perhaps not even very likely to succeed, But ...

Win with the Q sp (important NOT to win with K spades)

Play Ace diamonds ; play 3 diamonds to the K; play low diamond GIVING the opponents this trick . If the diamonds broke you have 2 extra tricks in diamonds in dummy.And have got to 9 tricks.

b) it's the same sort of play as in (a) above but with a twist.

Win the spade at trick 1 and play the 2 diamonds and play the 4 from dummy.

Read and reread that sentence.

Again if the diamond broke you make the contract and take 10 tricks.

You see why we had to duck that 1st round of diamonds ?

Good.