

Opponents open 1NT-answers

1) (a) it could work and people do do it but seems to me that to overcall on such a flat featureless hand is asking for trouble . [and if your partner has 10 pts or so and for that matter some spades ...wouldn't you be likely to beat 1NT anyway ?]

2) (a) bog standard –everyone does it- good six card suits are to be bid –

3) (a) I would bid at any vulnerability –it could go wrong but the hand's too inviting not to do something with (we bid the higher suit as we anticipate if the opps back in with say 2H we will bid again and bid 3C). Some educated coves will think of 2NT as an overcall (and they could be right) –word of warning ,although most these days would think 2NT showed the minors there may still be some out there who remember what it used to mean (I am one of them). So use with care,

4) (a) or (b) it may all come down to how much you like taking risks –the girls will be bidding 2S without a care in the world , the more sober chaps may see the downside if the call fails when vulnerable. Really though there is no answer to this sort of problem.

5) Win with Ace diamonds and lead K clubs. When the K clubs wins I lead another club; partner wins with the Ace and gives me a ruff.

I can dream cant I ? Dream or not ANY OTHER DEFENCE IS WRONG AND FEEBLE

6) small club -lead thru strength when dummy on your *left* from a suit in which you are *bereft*

7) lead the 8 clubs to the J clubs; this finesse was chosen (rather than the equally good 7 clubs to the 10) because we had it in mind should the finesse fail (they do half the time) that we would be losing it to the player that was no danger to us.

How do I know that explanation will fly over the heads of most ? Ok lets put it another way –if I told you that as soon as an opponent wins the lead they will lead a heart ...can you say which opponent you would rather lead that heart ?

That tells you how to play clubs. Think about it.

8) Duck at trick 1.

If you *don't* duck you may go off whenever the leader had led from a 5 card spade suit.

“ OK I accept that (I think) , but how do I spot the times I need to duck at trick 1 ? After all I am hardly weak in the spade suit “

Whenever the route to 9 tricks will require you to lose the lead two times (or more) you should duck in the led suit even if you have the A + K.

“Thank you “

No problem.