

Homework answers –passive defensive leads

1)Ha ha – these questions are going to be hard I can just tell.

Well ...1st principles tell us to lead from a long suit (5+) almost come what may , so I will lead a low heart [NB I might lead the 3 hrts instead of the 7 hrts –the reason is that I don't want partner to make the mistake of believing my 7 Hrts to be a top of nothing lead. So the 3 Hrts it is]. Having said ALL THAT it wouldn't surprise me if the 7 clubs wasn't a bad lead either. No , madness lies that way –the 3 hrts it is.

2)A high spade is my lead (more passive). There is also the knowledge that South can't have spades as they would have replied 1Sp. Which spade ? the 8 or 6. The lead anyway won't cost and may gain whereas a low diamond lead might cost.

3)The 7 diamonds. The opponents are strong , partner weak , we just wont get 4 tricks by leading a spade (and most likely will blow a spade trick or two along the way).Be reconciled to avoiding giving extra tricks and lead a passive high diamond.

4)Hmmm... tricky. Partner is not strong of course. This one looks the closest to me. The 6 sp praying partner has the J sp or the 8 clubs to give nothing away? Not sure. PS some might try the K sp (yes I know you should have three hons for a K lead) so it's wrong but could pay off.

By the way –I was playing with a goodish partner the other day who said to me “ I hate this game” (he plays 7 days a week)” what should I have led ?”. And of course it's often unclear what to lead and there is often no “correct” answer.

5) Well does that 2Sp opener scare you ? Really ? It shouldn't.

You are not going to pass with 18 pts are you ?

Bid 2NT which shows a balanced hand and approx (very approx) 15-----18/19

NB 2NT is NOT the unusual NT (showing the minors) when a weak two is opened. 2NT unusual is only used after normal openers.

6)Partner's response of 2NT was a bit stultifying (which is why good partners avoid making it) but we will give them the benefit of the doubt and presume they had a good reason. Anyway 2NT shows 11-12 and we have only 12 so a pass is clear. Perhaps partner's hand was K84---9876---KJ8----KJ8 and they just didn't fancy replying 1H.

6 (again) Well you might try the effect of the Q Hrts.

Now whatever the conventional significance of playing the Q under the Ace partner will surely sit up and take notice. And play another heart. The problem of playing the 2 Is that partner may switch.(Maybe the J too would suffice)

Gosh all these questions need me to think . Yes sorry about that.

7)Play diamonds. Later play diamonds. Later play diamonds.

And by the way it would be BAD play to cash all those spades straight away.

Nine tricks can be made by “force” by continually playing diamonds.

The heart finesse might work it's true but we would prefer not to bank on it.

Of course if an opponent leads a heart we will finesse hearts but we would rather not have to.

