

P.O.F.A.

- 1) 3H (not strong enough to bid game ; the raise to 3H here shows 10-12)
 - 2) 3H –am clearly “worth” more than 3H but I want to set the suit at a cheapish level so that slam investigations might be made NB I know opener has 18+ and opener knows I have 10+ so there is NO Danger that 3H will ever be passed out. It is an example of the P.O.F.A. but you scarecely have to be aware of that.
 - 3) lots going on here –surely 6 or 7 will be reached eventually. For the moment 3S is enough NB everyone knows that we are going on
 - 4) well we cant go 3D as we have 14 pts and partner doesn’t know that yet (and 4D would be murky) – probably a call of 5D is the answer. Anyone try 4th suit forcing ? Good Luck.
 - 5) 3H – everyone knows that we have 12+ and responder has 16+ so there is no need to rush around. The bid of 3H allows room to decide how high to go. Couldn’t we just go 4H because we don’t think a slam is on (ie our fast arrival will suggest weakness) ? Well possibly you could BUT that is unilateral and you make it hard for partner to investigate further.
 - 6)4H . A bid of 3H would not be enough (and partner might pass thinking we are weaker than we are). We know game is on and partner doesn’t so we have to bid it.
 - 7) just 4C
 - 8)just 3Sp. OK ? both players know they have at least 25+ pts so no need to rush
 - 9) 9 hearts at trick 1 to encourage
Ace hrts trick 2 (as partner will keep leading hearts)
K clubs trick 3 – leading your doubleton in hope of a ruff.
 - 10)The only hope is to establish the diamonds by ruffing them in hand.
This is a reasonable line:
Ace spades ; Ace Hrts ; K Hrts ; now leave trumps EVEN if there is one outstanding. Ace diamonds ; King diamonds; ruff a diamond; Return to dummy with J Hrts and play the two (!) winning diamonds throwing 2 losers.
 - 11) you need to make much of the diamonds. Remember how to play :
AJ92 -----6543 ?

You have to take a deep finesse the first finesse and follow it with a more straightforward finesse.
So –lead the 3 to the 9 (which will lose) ;
Later get the lead and lead the 4 to the J.
Could work and there’s nothing better.
 - 12) There seem to be a lot of questions this week ! I hope you are doing them too and its not just me ...

(i) 6sp (ii) 6Sp
- These are examples of the Terrible Twos ...those two card holdings that we dont play “with two you do play the honour” . There are only 3 “irregular” twos –and these are two of them. Know the third ?
- 13) Switch. Do not lead the Q sp. Do not lead the small spade. Switch.
(probably switch to a heart). You see why we switch ? What ? Partner’s ... What ? Oh partner’s discouraging signal at trick 1. Yes