

Homework answers –reopening the auction

- 1) Dble –easily better than rebidding 2H or bidding 2Sp (for one thing partner may prefer clubs !)
- 2) Pass. Why do you want partner to bid ? (you don't) . Let them try 2Sp –maybe they will go 1 off. If you double partner will bid , possibly clubs or diamonds.
- 3) A good hand of course but 2NT is too dangerous opposite a passed partner –try double
- 4) 2D
- 5) Well 2D is ok and 2Sp is ok but for my money the safest call is 2H

6) that double by partner was unexpected... why did they double ? (you are asking yourself).

Have they got 4 or 5 of the opponent's spades ? Surely not – that really would be a beginners error to double a slam because you have a few trumps (for one thing it would alert the opponents as to how to play the hand/draw trumps) , with 4/5 trumps partner would keep very quiet.

OK enough teasing –the unexpected double of a slam is a LIGHTNER double telling you that partner has a VOID (yes) and if you lead the right suit they will ruff it.

It stands to reason that if partner has a void we are likely to have a lot of the same suit so we have a clue what to lead (diamonds or clubs).Hmmm looks like a guess when all is said and done BUT partner did not make a lead directing double of the 5D response to Blackwood when they could have so there is a fair chance they have a void in clubs. We lead a club. Anyone try the K hearts ? oh dear oh dear.

7) This is difficult. So if you have answered it without qualm you probably haven't given it due consideration !

Is partner's 6 hearts an encouraging Hi-lo from A62 or J62 or is it a low discouraging signal from 976 ? (she shouldn't have 6-2 as we don't hi-lo with that on the lead of a K). You can't tell is the answer !

Declarer could be messing around and has played the 5 from AJ52 , trying to lure you into a Bath coup.

That's the answer . You can't tell what to lead at trick 2.

So perhaps a diamond at trick 2 is the safest answer.(sitting on the fence safe exit)

- 8) a) Q Hrts ie this is the last chance to make the Q (a classic 2 you do)
- b) 7 Hrts if you play low you will make at trick eventually with the J or Q (a classic 2 you don't!)

I am being glib I know but you have to learn that although most times with only 2 cards in the dummy you play the highest there are three (only 3) times you shouldn't.

These are : Jxx-----Qx Qxx-----Jx Jxx-----Kx

- 9) You might have thought you will have to take the diamond finesse but there is a better line. Having drawn trumps you next cash the A + K + Q clubs. Then you lead the J hrts. You lead ("exit" with) the J Hrts knowing the opponents will win. You hope that having won with the Q hrts the player on lead will have to lead a diamond into your AKJ. This sort of "throw in" play is thought of as expert play. Perhaps it is but it is easy to learn and do. When you have a tricky moment ,rather than guessing what to do, lead a card knowing the opponents will win and hope they lead something back that is favourable to you.

