

Answers revision

1) 2Sp partner's double is of course take out (we know that coz we haven't yet called)-should I bid spades or diamonds ? yes the diamonds are better but you would have to bid one level higher. (It would be a more interesting problem if you had had five diamonds and four spades. Even then 2Sp would be a sensible call)

2) Pass. You may not think that 2D will make but that's a red herring. The only (other) call available is double (which is take out) so pass is it. "what I can't bid double when I want it to be penalty and also bid double when I want it to be takeout ?" No Humpty Dumpty you can't.

With the 2nd hand of course double would be very accurate showing short diamonds and long everything else

3) Lead the 5 hrts towards the J hearts....ok ?
The lead of the K hrts promised the Q Hrts so we know the J can be promoted.
No marks for a diamond finesse.

3) second question

Win , draw trumps , lead the 3 Hrts towards the 10 Hrts for a WINNING finesse.

4) lead the 4 diamonds to the J. This finesse may lose (it's been known) BUT we don't care ! [coz the player on our right has no hearts left]. They weren't really very dangerous that right hand opponents were they ? (No)
Any other play e.g small club to the J is wrong and deserves to lose.
Always finesse into the safe® hand all other things being equal.

5) Win the Ace hrts and lead the 2 diamonds to the J.

"Err ...despite having 9 diamonds you still finesse the J diamonds ?"
Yes its actually a safety play (there are whole tomes written on safety plays in bridge though am guessing most students haven't (yet ?) discovered them)
Anyway the point is that win or lose the finesse is safe to make as if it loses , it is losing to the *non dangerous opponent* Ok this isn't easy and don't lose sleep over it (like that's likely) but we play diamonds like this because we are worried about the *clubs*. "It was a two way finesse in diamonds too wasn't it ?" Hush sleep now.

6) 4C – cuebid.

7) 4NT-blackwood.

"So sometimes we cuebid and sometimes we bid Blackwood ?"

Yes. " and we Blackwood whenever we have a 1st or 2nd round control in every suit ?"
Yes " ..and use cuebids whenever we have a suit without a King or Ace or singleton in it ?" Yes. "will my friends understand cuebids ?" No.