

Review answers

1) you return a club.

Anything else is potentially dangerous (and worse). If you *did* lead any of the other suits you might find that unluckily you helped dummy to a trick they wouldn't have got on their own.

2) Well opener is busily doing their own thing (showing 5-4 no doubt *) BUT it has taken the partnership past 3NT (and is therefore W-R-O-N-G).

Opener's job is to show or imply 5 of their first suit *and* stay at the three level.

This auction would be ok

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1S-----3H
3S-----3NT
Pass.
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4C above got an asterix * . There are partners (dangerous partners at that) who seem to think a bid at the 4level is a cue bid when they want it to be (and anything else when they don't). Obviously its impossible to have constructive auctions with this type of player anyway but you can make sure that there is never any doubt as to the meaning of your bids by keeping to the rule outlined above.

3) Having counted 7 top tricks declarer needs to create two extra tricks in diamonds. As the lead necessarily will have to be lost twice before the 2 extra tricks can be created declarer *waits when not so weak* (on the club lead) ie despite having AKx clubs declarer deliberately ducks the first club. The play may be essential to cut the defenders off from each other

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e.g if the clubs were      Q108763  -----|-----J9
                               AK2
                               -----|-----
                               54
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Ducking the first club is needed to prevent the club suit being led back and forth by the defenders.

4)

- there was a rather obvious and irrelevant misprint in clubs AK3 ----KQJ one day I hope not to have to say anything about such things. But ... Sigh that day is not here yet. Assume the clubs were AK3 -----QJ10

4) The contract is easy if the spades "come in " (they break).

Declarer should really think if anything can be done if they are 4-----1

Playing to preserve the tenace is the best play.

Lead Ace spades. Then lead Q spades. The remaining spades may now be :-

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(void)
K10 -----|-----76
          J9
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And it is an easy matter to finesse the Jsp. NB the order , Ace sp then Q sp allowed declarer to see if either defender only started with one spade. A 28% occurrence

5) I hope I made the question clear ?

My idea was to describe two defences (i) and (ii).
Only one the defences played was good.

In (i) you started with the Q sp from QJ1073. The lead was "o.k." if not brilliant.
Declarer won with the K and still held the Ace.

You got in with the Ace diamonds and carried on with the J spades.

This defence is as good as it can be and may defeat the contract. It is correct to continue with spades because , although the J sp will lose to declarers Ace , you still have the 10 (+ 7 + 3). You are not helping declarer to a trick they couldn't ever get on their own and you are promoting spade tricks for yourself which you may yet come in (with the K clubs) to play.

(ii) is entirely different and is a poor defence.

You led a reasonable 7sp which lost to declarers 10 (WHICH meant that declarer still held the A + Q).

When you came in with the Ace diamonds your lead of another spade allowed declarer to make a trick with the Q AND STILL you haven't established any spade tricks.

Go back. When you won with the Ace diamonds you need to switch. To wait for partner to lead spades through declarer to you.

Anyones guess what to switch to –I would lead a heart. Whether partner wins or not we haven't lost any extra tricks that we shouldn't have lost and just need to sit back and wait for a spade to be led to us.