

Homework answers

1) Lets marshal some facts before making decisions..

We know declarer has the A + K + Q sp . How ?

Well partner would have attempted to win at trick 1 with the A or K and would have signalled interest at the very least. In fact they played the 4 -a low discouraging card.

So we also know declarer has 9 pts and therefore no more points and ... finally, we know partner has the A + J diamonds .

So the defence is marked surely ? We will win the Ace clubs and lead diamonds.

When shall we do that ? Why not show our class and play Ace clubs now (trick 2) and lead the K diamonds (still trying to impress) followed by a low diamond.

2) Again the facts-it took a long while to learn but declarer has 8 or 9 pts.

Go over the bidding if you want to check that.

(trick 1) Declarer shows the A + K clubs ie 7 pts

[again its the dog that didn't bark in the night -partner's lack of a high signal (they played the 4 clubs reveals declarer has the K clubs not them)

(trick 2) dummy's J diamonds wins ,,,and so declarer has Q diamonds [2 more pts]

(trick 3) ? well -declarer has no more high cards so partner has ----->

A + Q hrts .

Is that necessarily going to be enough to beat the contract ? afterall declarer bid hearts. Hmmm the answer is a lemon (NB never have known what that meant but my mother was always saying it . Let me know if you know though].

A heart lead may not be enough BUT we can see that declarer is home and dry if we cant take 5 tricks but fast ie 2 x clubs + 4 x diamonds + 3 x spades.

So whether or not partner's hearts are good enough doesnt come into it-its our only hope. Maybe declarer replied 1H with 8xxx hrts. Well its possible.

If nothing else you will have shown that you knew what was going on.

3) Good start and we have chances of more tricks to come in the Q clubs (+ 10 clubs) and maybe something in diamonds if partner has the A or K or 10 diamonds.

Whether we actually will get any of those tricks remains to be seen BUT (and this is the most important point) we can't influence /help our chances of taking those tricks.

We have to wait ...and see. Hard for some but this sort of balanced dummy requires a passive response. Relax. Take a drag on a fag. Lead a spade.

4) This time -things are DESPERATE !! The dummy is going to romp it. It will draw trumps and play winning diamonds to throw any losers away from declarer's hand. You need an active aggressive response when you see such dummies. Lead a club now.

What ? yes of course , the Q clubs. What it comes down to is that if partner hasn't got the A + J clubs you can forget it anyway (and thats even if partner is the one who has the Ace diamonds). I dont think you need to go into it like this (just spot unbalanced

dummy requires aggressive risky defences) BUT we can beat the contract if partner has either : (i) A + Q clubs and Ace diamonds OR (ii) A + Q + 10 clubs only.

5) Odd what ? Declarer's discards (of 2 x spades). You would have thought she might have kept spades to go with the KQ2 in dummy. In fact she seems to be keeping everything but. My guess is that she is hoping to take 9 tricks in clubs and diamonds and has no interest in spades. But my partner has. Partner has Ace sp. Lead a spade.

