

- 1) Pass. South has bid a penalty double and you look forward to amassing a fair sized penalty to boot. Remember if the opps are vul 2 off is 500 and 3 off 800 (if not vuln then 2off is 300 and 3 off 500). We knew it was a penalty as we (North) had already bid.
- 2) We are going to bid. NB partner's double is takeout (coz we haven't yet bid). Whether 3H or 3C is up to you. 3H scores better(and in a duplicate that's a big consideration) tho 3C rates to be easier.
- 3) 4D . Splinter. Yes.
- 4) 3H. This is one of those new fangled (actually one of the oldest bids on the book) invitational suit stayman bids—3H now suggests a distribuional hand (probably 6 hearts) and invitational points.
- 5) 2NT. Bogstandardish. What else can you bid. So 2NT now promises 11/12 and 4 or a 5 card maj.
- 6) We know declarer has the J sp. le partner played their Qsp and with the Q and J sp partner would have played the lowest of touching honours. (As an aside if I could point to one thing only which shows a player to be an after supper player and not a club player it is the random play of honours in defence. Good players win with their lowest hon in defence 100% of the time). I digress.
On lead with the K diamonds and *knowing* declarer still has J spades we are inclined to switch and wait for partner to gain the lead to lead *through* declarer's Jack.
But but but ...yes I know thankyou –declarer *could* have only the singleton J sp left. More likely surely that they have Kx or Jxx or Jxxx ?
- 7)Declarer has the K and 9. Check it out if you are unsure.
We should continue spades but we need to lead the Q.
(There may be an odd exception tothis but for those who cant think it out , if onlead again and with 2 touching honours left e.g QJx KQx J10x it seems right to continue with the top hon regardless)).
- 8) The finesse of the Q hrts *if it wins* will ensure 12 tricks so perhaps we shouldn't be too scathing.
However... leading the K diamonds (and unless the Ace is immediately played on it in which case we ruff) and discarding *a spade* guarantees 12 tricks 100% of the time. [If the K diamonds had been covered we would have ruffed and made three discards on the Q+ J +10 diamonds (again 100% certain to make 12 tricks)]
Just thought of another thing beloved by the after supper player –unnecessary finesses that lose anyway..