

- 1) (a) 0 (if there was a number below zero the diamond switch deserves it)
(b) 10 excellent
(c) 5 ...not really ok but its an improvement on (a)

The idea once again is to switch to a suit that in the dummy (on your right) there are no honours in. So ..there is no chance of dummy winning the trick NB it is possible that declarer might win the trick but that is unimportant as they always were going to win.

If the clubs were like this :

J87
1042-----|-----K963
AQ5

You can probably see that if you led the 3 declarer would play the 5 and win in dummy with the J. Then they would finesse your K. You would give them 3 tricks if you led a club (and the cards lay badly for you as here).

With hearts ... even if they were like this (ie not very good for you)

843
9652-----|-----K107
AQJ

Declarer will make 3 tricks BUT they were always going to make 3 tricks.

- 2) (a) dangerous -----0
(b) safe ----- 5
(c) safe and might produce tricks -----10
- 3) hmmm... well this isn't so clear cut but a spade return is 100% safe and you can wait to see if you can get more tricks.
- 4) 4NT. (or 4C for the cuebid fans) ie slam is likely to be on if partner has 1 Ace
- 5) partner has DGR'd and has 13-15 pts but our shape is unprepossessing and pass is the right call

6) play the spades making sure you preserve the tenace

NB Ace spades first-then if an opponents has shown out you will know whether to finesse the 10 or not. After that, finesse clubs + diamonds too if you like.

7) because if South had 10+ pts they would double the 1NT overcall. The bid of 2D is something like a weak takeout with low points and a long suit.

8) An old chestnut –at least I set it up without errors this time)

Heres how to play it –I might not explain why (out of devilment in part but also to see if you can come up with the thinking on your own).

Here goes :-

Win Ace Hrts.

Win Ace spades

Win A diamonds , then K diamonds then Q diamonds.

Now lead the J hrts.

This is called an elimination and endplay if that helps.

Well ? do you understand why this was the best play ?