

Answers –strong 3 bid responses

- 1) already this has gone off the rails -3NT is South's proper response
- 2) yes very good
- 3) 3NT ie North isn't very interested in a slamming
- 4) This better -4C is a fair bid ie accepting partner's invitation to look at a slam in clubs
- 5) 1NT-----3D
4D-----4H
4S-----4NT*
5D-----6\Di

*a bid of 6Di instead of 4NT would be fair

6) Declarer might need to trump spades in dummy and so we should think about drawing dummy's trumps;

the best continuation at trick 2 is a low heart. This will allow your side to lead *two* more trumps when you next have the lead.

A likely scenario is ...declarer wins the trump lead and leads a spade; partner wins the Ace spades and sends a trump back...you win with the Ace and lead a third trump.

7)The interior sequence lead of the Qsp from AQJ10 is normal in NTs but is almost never done in a suit contract (the downs are far greater than the ups) [you only have to imagine declarer has a singleton K spades to see why the Q sp is wrong]; A trump lead is the answer. 2 or 3 hearts will do.

8)The correct play is the Ace diamonds at trick 1 (couldn't declarer have a singleton King ?); after that ,switch to a heart (weakest suit in dummy); Two of hearts is best. Any other defence is VERY poor.

9) Duck the opening lead. After that "knock out" the Ace diamonds and Ace hearts. [Any order]

The contract will make if spades are 4-3 or if the spades are 5--- 2 with the Aces in different hands (in case you want to know).

What would happen if you won at trick 1` ? You will go down if the spades are 5----- 2 and you guess to play the wrong suit first between hearts and diamonds.

"Ok but how do I know to duck the opening lead (after all I am strong in spades ? " It's because you have to "knock out " two or more cards and will lose the lead each time you do that that makes the duck at trick 1 necessary.