

Homework answers –competitive decisions

- 1) double . Asking partner to call. Why is it a takeout double ? well it just is ! but if you want a justification it is that partner has not yet bid (has been silent) and the double is made at a low level.
- 2) Double is best here too – some would bid 2Sp but there may be a fit in diamonds or clubs and double asks partner to choose the best contract
- 3) 2H.
- 4) Pass too rich for your liking ? well ok but all bids are flawed and if you call 3D the biddings going to get high mighty fast. Better to pass and wait to see what partner bids next. (We have already seen opener will go out of their way to make calls to bring their partner into the game.). Small point but when you pass DON'T pause , huff and puff making it clear to all and sundry that you want to bid but can't think of an option. This isnt for tactical reasons (that you should pass smoothly) it is an ethical matter. It may look like you are cheating if you pass s-l-o-w-l-y and then partner calls.

5) N	E	S	W
1S	2H	Pass	P
Dble	P	3C	P
P			

- 6) is it Blackwood or quantitative ?
I don't know ! Most club players would say it is Blackwood but experts wouldn't agree.

At least be aware that the sequence is ambiguous and if your partner ever opens 1NT and you have 20/21 points with a hand like this

AQ3
AQ43
KQJ3
Q43

Don't bid Stayman. Bid 4NT straight away and everyone will know what's going on.

- 7) This one's too hard. Can I just miss this one ?
No ? Well ... theres no clearcut answer I can see.
We have 2 tricks in the bag (Q sp + Q clubs) and will need two more to beat the contract. If partner had the K Hrts and Ace diamonds we will beat it and WILL beat it whatever we lead (BUT that's not very likely that partner will hold so much); actually if partner holds ONLY the Ace diamonds we will beat it if we lead the J diamonds (or K diamonds followed by the J diamonds); that's what to do. DON'T defend passively sending back a spade for instance. With this dangerous looking dummy you need to attack.
- 8) Preserve the tenace ! lead Ace spades then K spades when you draw trumps –hen you can finesse the J spades if necessary
- 9) Quite fun. Win Ace clubs YES ace. Play K diamonds and OVERTAKE with the Ace ; play Q then the 10 which loses to their J. You can return to dummy via the K clubs to play the winning 9 + 8 diamonds.

