

Answers unblocking

1) 8 hrts (ie high to encourage)

2) Ace hrts in order to have a small heart left to lead back to partner's (hoped for) QJx

3) K Hrts. Yawn.

4) Probably the 8 Hrts with a view to next time the heart suit is played , playing the Q under dummy's honour. Alternatively could play the Q Hrts at trick 1. Can't see much difference.

5) That would be an extended stayman by partner ? Yes. Ah so they are interested now in whether I have a 3 card major...I should now bid 3H. Partner has a strong 5-4 (5-5) shape in the majors

6) Pass. Partner has a weak 5—4 (5-5) shape in the majors

7) (a) duck the spade. What ?! Even when we hold the A + K ? Yes. Win the continuation and start playing clubs. Play clubs every time you have the lead.

(b) duck the spade. The J will be led next. Duck that too. On the next spade the K will lose to the Ace and hopefully that player will have no more spades left to lead. In time take a heart finesse (lead the Q to the 4)

c) small spade to the J and NOT go to dummy and lead the 4 hearts to the J. Its all to do with who you don't mind losing the lead to if a finesse fails.

(d)) small diamond to the J (and NOT lead the Q hearts to the 2).. Then Q sp . Its all to do with who you don't mind losing the lead to if a finesse fails.

8) An unexpected surprise double of a freely bid slam suggests a void in partner's hand (yes) and the wish to ruff the suit you led. Well we don't know which suit partner is ruffing , but clubs is most likely. Lead a club. NB not a normal Q hrts or K diamonds. The double is The Lightner double.