

Answers

1) (i) pass

(ii) 3Sp

(iii) either 3Sp OR 3H

(iv) 3H

(v) no Q(v)

(vi) This is harder-,,, here's the problem :- *if* we knew partner had four spades (they might have only *three* spades in a competitive auction) we could reasonably bid 3Sp); if partner did only have three spades though we would be better defending so should pass. And we don't know which is the case.

The answer is to wait and see what partner does. If they have four spades hopefully they will bid on to 3Sp and if they have three spades they will (hopefully) pass.

Of course all the bad bidders bid on to 3Sp on this hand regardless and look smug when they make it but they are just bidding partner's hand (not a good look in the modern parlance). Every class has them (some have two). Actually would be fun to make that type of player partner errr that type of player.

((we had an instance of the sort of thing I'm talking about last week—and it wasn't shameful or reprehensible so I will name names !! Anthony " who likes a bid " raised his partner exuberantly to a high level. His partner (Rosh) who too "likes a bid" took A at his word and launched into Blackwood. Contact failed.))

If you don't mind us saying you seem to be getting a little bitter and twisted Mark....
Yes you are probably right , sorry.

2) you lead a club. "Ah that must be because there is nothing in clubs in dummy and so am leading up to weakness " Ah that must be it.

3) I still haven't done the lesson that would help you here.(Its coming).

If you overruff , declarer makes and if you don't overruff you beat the contract. Think it out or wait for the lesson.

4)The opponents need to lead a trump to beat the contract.

5) You need to finesse the diamonds into the safe hand.

I know "dangerous" and "safe " hand concepts are still a mystery to some but the way to think about it is ...if you take a finesse and it loses would you be happy that the player that won is now on lead? Well maybe that's no help !

The answer is to go to dummy and lead the 8 diamonds and play the 3 from hand. Now if it loses the player (on declarer's left) is on lead and can't lead any suit to trouble you.

The alternative (poor) way to play the hand would have been to lead the 3 diamonds to the J in dummy. That would have been poor because if it had lostthe player on lead on declarer's right would send a spade back and you would likely go down in the contract.

