

## Homework answers -partscores

1) (C) -I'm for leading a spade to the K ;

lots of reasons for ( and maybe some against !);

on the plus side we will develop a spade trick ( either with the K sp or shortly , the Q Sp); we have lost nothing (extra) in the process -we can still broach diamonds when we will , we can still draw trumps when we next are in dummy if we want.

What will happen when we lead the 6 sp to the K ? I have seen players jump and play their Aces on the small 6 sp before now ( that would be excellent ); if the defenders havent just fallen off a cargo boat however they will play low on the 6 Sp and my K might make. Then what? I will send a small spade back and duck it in dummy ( NOT play my Q); good defenders dont like this sort of play -they get nervous , they are not sure what is going on ( Best not to reveal you the declarer arent so sure yourself !). At anyrate the defence *might* open diamonds for us ( thankyou very much) or *might* lead trumps themselves. We are playing a game ( perhaps a game within a game ) where we are s-l-o-w-l-y making some progress at the sdame time keeping all options open.

2) ( and there might have been another option (D) lead a diamond ).

I'm for (C). Leading another heart.

How can it be wrong ? We are going to create a void in hearts in dummy and are well placed whatever the opponents try next. [ Sometimes they lead trumps and *not* always to their advantage ] . Jobs like drawing trumps etc we will take on when it suits us. I didnt say before but perhaps its fair comment that there is less rush needed in a partscore.

3) This is harder !

I happen to go for (A) win with K hrts and lead [Ace ] diamonds.

(Second choice (C) lead a spade ).

(A) -there are clear benefits of leading a diamond *if the card gods are smiling on us that is* -- we can get the Q diamonds ready to take a trick and discard a heart on; we might even establish the whole diamond suit and can later throw umpteen losers away on them. The defenders will see the shortage of spades in dummy anyway and might decide to remove dummy's trumps ( to prevent spade ruffs) all in all that would be welcome. Finally we can still if we are so minded decide to lead apades ourselves later in the game. (which essentially was line (C) )

It was admitted that luck might be needed at some point ( have you ever noticed that good card players tend to be lucky ? now why is that I wonder ? It might be a cross between Lee Trevinos riposte when a bunker shot he played in a golf match was so successful " Lucky ? Yes the more I practise the luckier I find I am " and the more prosaic making of plays which *even if unsuccessful* still leave chances.

4) Declarer wont be that strong one imagines and its reasonable to credit partner with a club honour ( or two ?) ; also we can hardly sit around playing pat-a-cake leading a heart back for instance ( spare me from partners who just return your lead in a trump contract without giving it a seconds thought ). Here incidentally declarer is likely to hold the Q Hrts.

So we lead a club. Well done.

That was the good play.

The even better one was to lead the *Jack* of clubs.

I really should leave you to work out why the J clubs might be necessary ( it was) but here is how the clubs actually lay.

10 3 2

A876 -----|----- KJ9

Q 5 4

The lead of the J is called a "surround" play ( I dont make these things up ).

If you lead the J your side take 3 tricks whatever declarer does.

(And if you had led the 9 clubs (like my partner did )? )

Well a resourceful declarer would play low ( they were and did ) and only lose 2 tricks.

5) well 3D shows 10-12 so thats no good.

4D ? I dont even know what that means ! ( I think something like a weak gambling raise) but whatever it means you will have bypassed 3NT.

The easiest call is to respond 3NT.

6) They probably deserve each other anyway but the opener was certainly at fault.

They knew that their 5 spades were opposite ( at least ) 3 spades

and so should have just shown their 19 pts with a raise to the game call of 4 Sp.

What about responder ? They will argue ( correctly) that they couldnt reply 1NT with a singleton and so preferred to raise to 2Sp ; when their partner bid 3NT they believed the NT bidder could only have a four card spade suit . It wasnt for them to "mastermind" [ a pejorative term at bridge ] and retreat to 4Sp. Yes they were right.

Incidentally -( youre getting your moneys worth here I hope you appreciate) - the main danger in NTs is NOT the hearts ( though responder was naturally worried about that suit ) BUT clubs .

7) Well we are not going to pass with 17 pts.

Double would be a takeout suggesting short hearts and long everything else.

An overcall in a suit would show a 5 or 6 card suit.

A bid in NTs would show approx 15-18 pts.

Bid 2NT. Partner can even reply 3C to our call meaning something or other.

