

Homework answers –discards

1) we want a heart led as we hold the KJ 962 *behind* the Q653 in dummy.

NB if we can get partner to lead a heart we are very likely to be able to make a heart trick (in addition to the one we expect to make with the Ace diamonds.)

We don't ask for a diamond as we expect to be able to take the Ace diamonds anyway. So we discard the 9 hearts. Alternative discards ? the 2 of clubs and then the 2 of diamonds would work I suppose BUT it will take two discards to send the same message we managed with the one discard of the 9 hearts.

2) Here we want a club NB we hold KJ2 *behind* dummy's AQ9.

How can we send that message ?

Here two signals are probably needed.

Discard the 2 hearts and then the 2 diamonds.

Incidentally we probably have time to make two discards as partner doesn't appear to be gaining the lead for a while.

3) Well what do you want led ? a club or a heart ?

In a way you want both led BUT the club should be put on hold for the moment.

The reason for that is that although a club lead will assist you to make the K clubs it will also help declarer to get the Q clubs.

A heart lead however will put you in a position to make the K hearts without declarer benefitting.

Discard the 9 hearts . By the way –mealy mouthed discards like a 6 hearts are wrong when you have a higher card that you can play (like the 9 hearts)

4) Well the 2 spades usually denotes “only” a 4 card suit . If that is to be relied on then the opponents wont be able to run more than 3 spades after our Ace sp has gone. So that isnt too worrying.

The easy game is to win the Ace spades (at the 1st or 2nd trick) and lead a heart.

YES that will probably lose and YES the opponents will take 3 spades BUT then you have 9 tricks. What about running the six diamonds first ? Well in general that is a bad idea in that it can ruin entries as your hand gets squeezed but here it would be ok. (what would you throw on the six diamonds ? perhaps 2 sp + 1 Club ; then lead a heart which would lose and then three spades would be led and you have to throw 3 more cards err... 1 heart and 2 clubs and ..

The easy game as I may have mentioned is to go for the 9th trick before cashing the six diamond tricks.

5) This one is different.

As soon as the opponents take the lead they will have 4 more spade tricks to cash (and you will be down). We know this because we only started with four spades and therefore one opponent had 5 spades.

So you are booked to go down.

But not without a fight.

This is the sort of hand that you should run the long suit first.

You will be watching eagleeyed to see if a spade or spades are thrown. As soon as a spade is discarded you can try for a 9th trick in clubs. If the opponents don't discard any spades then you will have to conclude its not your day and just cash 8 tricks.

This sort of play *can* pay off if an opponent has too many high/important cards to keep . They will be squeezed out of their winners.

e.g if the leader held :

KQ852

K7

87

A1098

On the run of the diamonds they would have to throw away four times.

And they cant unless they chuck a spade.

6) remember this one ? The K or 7 from dummy?

You have to play the low card and you will be safe as you have the J in hand.
(if you did play the K and it lost you might make no tricks).

Some learned scholaress tells me that the following types of holdings are all dodgy holdings (and ones that she might not make any tricks from at all if she is unlucky) and her rule is that with a dodgy holding always play low on the lead. So now you know.

Jxx -----Kx or Qx -----Jxx or Jx -----Qxx or Qxx -----Jx or Jxx--Qx

7)Partner has played a suit preference signal and her 7 clubs *which is her lowest club*

Is asking us to switch to a diamond.

So we lead the 9 Di.