

- 1) 1NT is wrong coz the bidder has no stop in spades
2H would be better
- 2) correct
- 3) wrong shape for NT NB we sometimes have to bid a skewed 1NT but not when we have a reasonable alternative , as here , of 2H
- 4) wrong -1Sp is right. Dont go raising with 3 cards when you can make a normal call in a suit.
- 5) 2NT -to show 17 and to show balanced and to show only a 4 card suit in hrts
- 6) actually I made a mistake here ! Get off the blower Phillida found it before you.
With this hand with 16 pts Pass is probably best (or safest anyway)

I think I meant opener to have 17 so pencil in the J Hrts.

Now with 17 you have to make a move towards game.

2NT or 3Sp ? Definitely 3Sp because you have 5 sp and partner has 4 or 3

- 7) South should bid 4H.
Opener has 19 and a balanced hand with four hearts but it is normal to play in a 4-4 fit.
We have a side suit doubleton if you want a further pointer to play in a suit contract.

- 8) Now bid 3NT. Partner only has four spades. and 17.

- 9) Not hard for those who have remembered to count declarer's points.

ie $A + K \text{ diamonds} + A \text{ clubs} = 11.$

So partner has the Ace hrts. Lead the 2 HRts to partner's Ace. They win and return the suit and we make the J + K and hopefully the 13th heart.

Very neat you allow but was there any need for the switch ? now ?

Actually Yes. The other thing to practise counting is how many tricks declarer has/can get. That figure is $4 \text{ clubs} + 2 \text{ diamonds} + 2\text{Sp} = 8$ but the declarer can easily get a 9th if (i) they actually hold the Q sp OR (ii) if partner holds the Q sp then declarer will finesse the J sp in dummy.

10) The 12th trick (we have an easy 11) will come from a successful finesse.

We can finesse :-

(i) the Q sp (ii) the 10 diamonds) (iii) the Q diamonds

The trouble is if you take the "wrong" finesse the first time there may be no recovery.

The best effort is to go to dummy with the 9 clubs.

[You didnt think it was an accident the 9 clubs was in dummy did you ?]

Now play a low diamond to the 10. (If that won that would be your 12 trick , or if it lost to the K , then your Q would now be high and you would again have 12 tricks)

We will say it loses to the J ie no help to us.

When you have the lead back -play a small spade to the Ace .

And next play a diamond to the Q.

We have -spurned the spade finesse and decided to take two diamond finesses.

AQ10 -----932

This play in diamonds gives you a 75% chance of success (slightly more in fact).

Holdings like AQ10 -xxx or AJ10-----xxx etc etc when you can take a series of finesses are the best finesses to look out for.

11) No definitive answer. Not 2H/2S I will say that. (You are too good).

3 maj or 4 maj ? Will go 3 SP and hope partner goes 4 when suitable.

12)Put me down for 4Sp (and start the car for quick getaway in case it goes wrong).

Only 13pts ? tsch tsch Yes thank you I did manage to count them.

They are 4 tricks of course. And partner may have 6 or 7 tricks.