

Homework -overcalling 1NT - answers

1) 2Sp ...? well it would be a bit dodgy and not a vulnerable overcall unless the drinks had been flowing, but 2Sp not vulnerable ?.. will probably be ok.

And yes -it is pushing our luck :-

- * the suit is poorish (though the 9 spades may be our saviour)
- * the shape (5-4) is not *that* shapely (but better than a 5-3-3-2)
- * the points (or tricks really) are not so abundant.

So it is very much up to you -if you have avoided such bids so far and are happy , carry on doing what you do ; the point needs to be made though that there are players (like everyone in the U.S. instance) who will overcall on such hands.

Presumably they feel it works anyway.

2) This one is more straightforward - a six card suit needs to be mentioned even one headed by the J.

For myself I will bid 2D and if the opponents compete further (perhaps with a call of 2H) will then try 2Sp.

The shape 6-4 is excellent -the impletion (!) J1097 is good - only the quality of the suit lets it down a bit.

It wasn't mentioned in the notes but another way of considering the outcome with the hand is to think what will happen if you pass 1NT. Partner will NOT lead diamonds (that's a cast iron certainty) and p-r-o-b-a-b-l-y 1NT will make. I think 2D is pretty reasonable if the alternative is to watch the opponents make their 1NT.

3) Double is obvious and that's what we do. There is no upper limit for a penalty double of 1NT. 16 ----->

In the old days partners passed a penalty double of 1NT whatever they held -nowadays partner will probably remove the double with a very weak hand but then we can try 2Sp if we wish.

By the way -anybody who didn't double and just bid 2Sp straight away is not playing the game (of bridge.)

4) 2D for me. And might back in with 2Sp if the opponents keep bidding.
YOU don't have to if it's not your style but some will.

5) The other side of the coin. If you bid you have to call 2NT.....

(I think we have finally stopped even the weakest of players from raising overcalls with only 2 cards in their partner's suit so that's not a consideration).

....Or pass. Game is most unlikely . We would need 25 pts and wisest counsel may be to pass and let partner have an easy time of it.

6) Yes. Ten tricks were there from the off.

And people do finesse the AQ3 diamonds and complain their finesses never work. Counting *winner*s lets you know whether you need to try finesses or not.

7) You know all about S.P.S of course.
So if you want a club you play the 2 diamonds.
If you want a Heart you play the 9 diamonds.
You want a club.

8) The answer is to go back to partner's first choice lead of hearts.
We could spend a while analysing why partner started with a low hearts and isn't carrying on with the suit but really there's no need. Partner wants hearts led but from your side of the table.

9) Real hand . Well no one seems to have told the leader (P.E) that the recommended lead against a suit grand slam is a trump. But of course on this hand at least a trump would have given us no problem at all. (best would be to win with Ace , trump a heart , draw trumps , return to Ace diamonds and enjoy the AKQ105 hearts throwing the losers away).
The lead of a diamond unfortunately prematurely robs dummy of an entry.

The main two lines are :

(1) You take the finesse at trick 1 on the lead of the diamond.
if the finesse works then 13 tricks are easy

(2) You win the Ace diamonds.
Trump a small heart.
Then play K sp.
Then Ace sp .
Then play Ace + K + Q hearts (throwing 3 losers).
You will have to hope the 10 hearts is a winner (because the J has fallen)
and then finally throw your final loser away.
you will need trumps to be 2-2 and the J hearts to fall in three rounds of hearts