

Homework answers -playing the long suit / discarding on the long suit.

- 1) There are 9 tricks "on top" and so we may decide to just take these 9 tricks.  
We should start by playing all the diamonds out -all 5 of them ; the opponents will have to make a lot of discards and may in the process ruin their holdings.  
We will obviously make 9 tricks but may ,by dint of the opponent's discards, yet make some overtricks.
- 2)Here there are only 8 tricks on top. It would be an error to play the long diamonds out . Simply play a spade to develop the 9th trick. When that trick in spades has been established then , we can play out all the diamonds.
- 3)Again we have 9 tricks and are running for home. Play all six diamonds out , you never know what will happen ... { if the opponents threw clubs for instance you might make extra tricks in that suit },.
- 4)This time there are only 8 tricks so we should develop a 9 th trick before playing the diamonds. Playing a spade will lead in any event to at least 10 tricks.
- 5)discards are :  
6 clubs : 3 spades ; 9 hrts ; 10 Hrts;  
ie we threw 2 of our winning Hrts in order to best protect our holdings in Clubs and Spades.
- 6)discards are :  
3 clubs : 4 clubs : 10 Hrts : J Hrts.  
Same answer as above really ; we cant afford to throw even 1 spade so have to resort to throwing winning Hrts.
- 7) Double  
NB the Double is lead directing { notifying partner that we would appreciate a diamond lead as we have a strong diamond holding }
- 8)2Sp  
A simple overcall. No reason to wait when you have such a clear cut and good overcall.
- 9)This time we are going to make two bids;  
Firstly we Pass. { we do this because , frankly, there isnt much else we can do !}.  
On the second round we make a take out double. { It is clear that when the transfer bidder passed themselves they were weak and so there is no reason for us not to compete }.
- 10)
  - i)What card do you play at trick 1 ? Ace Hrts
  - ii) c) Win the Ace Hrts ; then draw trumps and play on clubs  
(NB no need to take the Hrt finesse (at trick 1))
- 11)
  - i)What card do you play at trick 1 ? J Hrts
  - ii) d) Finesse the J Hrts ; if it wins draw trumps and play on clubs  
(NB there is every need to take the Hrt finesse (at trick 1)!!)

12) This hand should probably be filed under the section a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Yes you know that with a weak holding in the led suit in 3NT at trick 1 to hold up your Ace. {cf wait when weak }.

So I expect that is what some of you did ?

Well you shouldn't on this hand !! Why ? Because actually your diamond holding is *not* weak. It is the diamond pips ie A10 -----9876 that actually go to make the diamonds quite a strong holding. { In fact you will win straight away with the Ace, known ( by some anyway) as *Strike when Strong* }.

Just to make it clear : imagine that the K is led and you win straight away with the Ace. ie we started with A10 -----9876 and after the K is won we are left with :

10-----987

Now , the opponents still have their Q and their J which they may take in due course, BUT, our 9 will necessarily then become a winner.

The original holding of A10 -----9876 was not weak and hence we dont *wait when weak*.