

Homework slams -answers

Your opponents auction was 1NT -----6NT.

Your lead ...?

1) A432 <u>8</u> 63 Q8432 3	2) <u>Q</u> J3 K5432 <u>7</u> 65 32	3) <u>9</u> 652 Q76 A54 <u>4</u> 32	4) <u>J</u> 103 <u>8</u> 765 Q543 43	5) <u>A</u> 43 <u>A</u> 43 876 5432
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You lead against 6NT in the hope of not giving the declarer a cheap trick; your lead will always be of the type of top of nothing or top of touching honours. Some of the hands above offer alternative leads -there is no certainty at all which will be best. All the underlined leads are acceptable. NB I hope you led your Aces in Q) 5 ?

After this auction :

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C	P
2H	P	6NT	P

5) QJ3 9842 <u>Q</u> J3 984	6) 8 9832 Q876 <u>9</u> 832	7) KQ3 543 <u>K</u> Q3 <u>6</u> 543	8) Q652 Q65 J <u>6</u> Q65	9) <u>A</u> K3 5432 5432 43
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The only difference after the above auction is that you know the opponents own the Spade + Heart suits { from the use/response of Stayman}. Sensibly you keep away from both those suits. The leads are again T.O.N. or T.O.T.H. Q)9's answer hopefully doesn't need an explanation.

The opponent's auction is shown below. Your lead.

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	3S	P
4SP	P	4NT	P
5D	P	6Sp	P

10) 876 876 Q87 <u>3</u> A43	11) Q54 K <u>4</u> 3 <u>2</u> 8765 98	12) 8762 K3 Q652 <u>Q</u> J6	13) 985 K652 <u>K</u> Q5 983	14) 876 A65 <u>Q</u> J3 9876
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My first choice of lead has been underlined { they are all T.O.T.H. or leads away from a K or Q }. Other leads are of course reasonable too { and may be better }. These include:

10) 8 H or 6 S 11) 8 D 12) 8 S or 2 D 13) 2H or 9 C or 9 S 14) 9 C or 8 S

I myself prefer not to lead a trump { sometimes you "kill" an honour in trumps that partner was holding } and also have found that T.O.N leads e.g 9876 get you nowhere against suit slams. The leads are certainly not hopeless though and could be the winning lead.

What do you lead against 7Sp on this hand ? { and what against 7NT ? }

15) 652
Q543
K3
J543

Same lead against both funnily enough. Leading a trump is considered the safest move against a grand slam and as ever . leading T.O.N against NT slams is usually best.

What is your next bid in the (uncompleted) auctions given below?

16) AKJ3
K43
K3
A543
1Sp-----3H
4NT

Partner has 5+ H so we will play in H. Have no time to bid *only* 4H as partner may pass. We want to be in a slam if we have 3 Aces or more.

17) A653
A543
A54
Q4
1NT-----4NT
6NT

4NT was a quantitative enquiry of course and NOT B/wood.

18) AKQJ3
3
K32
Q543
1Sp-----3Sp
4SP

Nice hand but not good enough for a slam opposite 10-12

19) K53
K53
A54
Q874
1NT-----4NT
PASS

We are minimum {12pts} so pass.

20) AKQ6
A42
4
AK654
3H-----**6H**

Partner has (approx) 6 *playing tricks* when they open 3 H. We can provide six or so more tricks so bid the slam.

21) 8
AKQ
AK8432
876
3NT-----**6C**

Well , did you get this one right ? 3NT of course shows 7 solid cards in a minor suit ie AKQJxxx. The suit was clearly clubs.

Adding points when partner opens with a preempt is not the way to gauge slam possibilities.

In 6Sp you receive the lead of the 2 Hrts.

22) (declarer)	(dummy)
KQJ105	9876
54	AQ
AKQJ	3
43	AKQJ109

Slightly worrying lead but we don't need to finesse as we can discard our losing QH on a diamond. Win Ace H; Play Ace Di. Play K Di { throwing the Q H} ;now.... draw trumps.

Finessing the QH *could* work but is clearly not best.

You are in 6NT and the lead is the 9 Hrts. How will you make the contract ?

23) (declarer)	(dummy)
QJ105	K3
KJ10	AQ
AKQJ	8765
43	AKJ109

There are 9 top tricks.

There is a trick { of sorts} to make the slam. The spades { a topless suit } can produce 3 tricks. The best play is to simply play the K Sp at trick 2. As soon as the Ace appears 12 tricks are made.

Perhaps you were tempted to play on clubs ? Try and see why that isnt as good as playing on Spades.

24) N	E	S	W	Whats going on ? Partner wouldn't double with just one
1S	P	3H	P	Ace and it's hardly likely that your opponents are
3S	P	6S	Dble	missing two Aces. Any ideas ?

Completely unfair question as partner's double is a conventional double { it means something special } and you would not know that. It is called a Lightner double { after its creator} and says specifically that *West has a void in one of the side suits and that if East leads that suit then West will be able to trump that lead and take the first trick.*

Here is West's hand:

xxx
void
Axxxxx
xxxx