

Homework Answers -good hands/bad hands

1) this may not be as cut and dried as I first imagined !
my order is as follows :

1) e 2) c 3) b 4) d 5) a

It is difficult to choose between "e" + "c" and also "b" + "d"
and I won't argue with you if think "c" is better than "e" and "d" better than "b"
(well not too vehemently anyway).

The most distributional hands tend to be the best , with the hands with "concentrated points" being next and the hands with no distribution , no concentration of points being worst.

- 2) i) bid 4Sp good distribution and concentration of points
ii) bid Pass -. Hand is too "open" with points everywhere with no concentration of points in suits.
iii) bid 4Sp - fair distribution and good concentration of points
iv) bid Pass -this one is close (and better than (ii)) but it would be a gamble to bid 4Sp.
v) bid 4Sp -fair distribution and good concentration of points.

3) 4Sp is the right call. Despite partner having only 6-9 pts and ourselves only having 12 pts I think we will make 10 or 11 tricks ! Why ? Well..... it is becoming obvious that partner has only 1 diamond at the most and so we can organise to trump our diamonds in the dummy. Our singleton club is a positive factor and the concentrated Hrt suit suggest we wont lose more than 1 trick there.
I could be wrong of course but I doubt if we will make less than 9 tricks ,so going 1 off will be a good sacrifice anyway.

4) Again 4Sp is a good call.

There are a number of reasons.

- i) as above - partner has only 1 Hrt at most so we can trump Hrts in the dummy
ii) our diamond holding { A + Q } has grown in value because partner's suit is of course , diamonds. We can imagine establishing partner's diamond suit quite easily. NB it is because the AQ is in diamonds that is important. Had they been in clubs { a suit partner didnt bid }, they would not be so valuable .
iii)the spade suit { six cards opposite partner's 3 spades } is unlikely to lose more than 1 trick at most.

Perhaps it goes against the grain for you to go to game knowing that you have too few points ? - well ok , but points are only part of the story and other factors also have to be taken into consideration.

5) Well 4Sp is a bit of a gamble but the question is , is it a good gamble ?

Partner could have 12 pts which would help { but yes , they might only hold 10 or 11}.

The "make up" of our hand is the important thing.

With fair distribution { 5---4 -2-2 } and good concentration of points in Sp + H , then the hope of making 10 tricks is reasonable. 4Sp should be bid.

Should being Vulnerable put us off ? Quite the opposite -we stand to gain much more because we are vulnerable. Would expect 4Sp to make about 3 or 4 times out of 5.

6) A) is of course a nonsense auction. Souths bid of 2H just shows she { it could be a he } doesn't know what they are doing. As South has Hrts they should have bid 3NT at their second call.

B) is a good auction. South bid 2H { 4th suit forcing } precisely because they didnt hold Hrts and wanted to enquire if partner held any stops in Hrts

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| 7) KQJ65 | A987 |
| AJ3 | 762 |
| AQ | KJ3 |
| 432 | Q76 |

4Sp on the K Hrts lead.

Just too many losers you might think. You *can* play diamonds to chuck a losing club but we still will have 4 losers.

The answer is to try the Bath Coup at trick 1.

ie the K Hrts is led and we should duck!. Maybe the leader will carry on with Hrts and then we will score the A + J hrts; then of course we can play diamonds throwing a club.

8) 87 -----987-----K542 --Q542

Possible leads vs 6Sp are : 8 sp or 9 Hrts or 2 Diamonds or 2 clubs

Any could be the winning lead. The 2 diamonds or the 2 clubs are the most ambitious and would be the choice of most experts.

9) 87 -----987-----K542 --Q542

Possible leads vs 6NT are : 9 Hrts + (I suppose) 8 sp.

NB never lead 4th highest against 6NT.