

- 1) Not much future in returning a Hrt { partner's lead of the 9 reveals that they have no Hons or tricks in the suit} ; switching to a club { *leading up to weakness* } looks right. Lead J cl.
- 2) Hmmm .... will now repeat the *first part of the answer to Q 1* ) -----  
Not much future in returning a Hrt { partner's lead of the 9 reveals that they have no Hons or tricks in the suit} ; UNFORTUNATELY there is NO suit that can be safely switched to. Leading a trump will lose a trick as will leading a diamond or a club. Return a Hrt because that is the safest thing on offer.
- 2 ii) 2NT -----3Sp  
4Sp.
- 3) Return partner's lead of a Hrt. NB there is a fair chance that our side can get a Hrt trick if we keep leading the suit.
- 4) Now there is no chance of getting a Hrt trick { declarer is known to hold the K } ; switch to a club seems reasonable.
- 5) Well let us say at the outset that it is anybody's guess what to lead.  
First principles dictate that when on lead against a suit slam we should throw caution to the wind and that *anything goes*.  
The obvious choices are the 2 Diamonds or the J Hrts. The diamond lead is attacking and may produce a trick quickly if partner is so dutiful as to hold the K. The J Hrts is safe but slow. Any other clues ? Well partner *failed* to make a lead directing double over the conventional response of 5Hrts made by the opponents, so presumably hasn't got much in Hrts.
- 6) Hrt or a club ? 4 Hrts is my choice. NB the lead of an Ace against a slam gets you errr ... one trick only ; better to try to promote a trick in Hrts { perhaps partner holds the Q } *before* the Ace of clubs is played.
- 7) See Q)5. Partner's double is a clear request for a Hrt lead.
- 8) don't like the look of this ..... One would normally lead a small club but when the opponents have bid clubs that doesn't look too bright; will try a safe if unimaginative J Hrts.
- 9) S is this auction's loon. Having limited their hand to 10-12 pts { and risked their partner passing the 3 Hrt bid } they now decide they have enough points to initiate a slam enquiry. One has played with people like this of course.
- 10) S again; they bid at the 2 level promising 10 pts and when opener suggests better than average points they decide to drop the bidding. Hopeless.
- 11) Not prepared to take a back seat any longer North too reveals an incipient madness. North *reversed* showing 15+ pts and then decides to stop in 3Sp.  
Twit.

12) Not sure what my cunning plan was in setting these two questions.  
Anyway : Q 12-----

Trick 1 )Win the Ace Hrts; Trick 2) lead the 7 diamonds to the K  
Trick 3) lead the J spades for a *running finesse* in trumps.

You can do no better than this ; the contract does seem to depend on whether the spade finesse works or not.

13)

Trick 1 )Win the Ace Hrts; Trick 2) lead the 6 diamonds to the K  
Trick 3) lead the Q spades for a *running finesse* in trumps.  
NB the point in leading the Q here { and the J in the previous question}  
is that the finesse can be *repeated* if it is succesful; you will still be in the dummy and can again take another finesse.

14) The 8 Hrts was of course a LOW discouraging signal.  
Got that did you ?