

Homework answers / singleton leads.

1) The 2 Hrts is clearly a singleton.

You see why ? It is because a low card led always promises a 10 or J or Q ; in this case the 10 , J + Q are all accounted for....therefore the only other possibility is that the lead is a singleton.

The plan must be to take the Ace trumps at the earliest possibility and lead a hrt for partner to trump. Possibly* partner will lead a club back to our Ace and we in turn can lead another Hrt giving partner another ruff.

*if you are interested as to how partner can tell to lead a club back rather than a diamond then see a footnote at the end of the answers.

2)Partner's lead is unlikely to be a singleton -much more likely is that the lead is top of nothing. Best is to switch. The Q diamonds looks fine.

3)The 2 Hrts has probably been led low from the J . {If the 2 was a singleton it would mean that the declarer had a 7 card Hrt suit which is *most* unlikely }. One possibility is to return a Hrt to create a void in Hrts in our own hand..... then we could win the first lead of trumps and try and put partner in with a club or a diamond who could then lead another Hrt which we could ruff. Quite a good idea. Or , we could just switch to a high club and hope partner has some holding that will make a couple of tricks. e.g AQ or KJx. difficult to know which is best. Good if you thought of both though. Did you ?

4)

a) Lead K sp . Much better than a singleton lead

b) Lead singleton diamond. Not great but nothing better.

c) Dont lead singleton K. 9 of clubs or 2 spades better.

d)Wellsingle diamond might work. Small club also ok.

5) 6 winners - play spades

6) 7 winners-play diamonds

7) 9 winners -need to unblock clubs and it is clubs that must be played first.

8) 8 winners -play a spade

sorry misprint in the question; meant to ask " how many *losers* do you have in the pairs of hands " .

9) 3 losers only -draw trumps

- 10) 4 losers -need to play diamonds before trumps {to throw Hrts }
 - 11) 4 losers -need to play clubs { to throw hrts }
 - 12) 4 losers -might as well draw trumps -in time the diamond finesse will need to be broached.
 - 13) N is 5-5 or possibly 6-5 in the majors
S has 2 sp and 3 Hrts
 - 14)N is 4-4 in majors
S has 4 sp
 - 15) S has 6 Hrts { 6-9 }
 - 16) S has 6 Hrts {13 + }
- 1)* *when we lead a hrt for partner to ruff , we should lead a small hrt { the 3 or 4 }; this lead is a suit-preference signal !!! Partner is supposed to notice that we led a low Hrt and therefore will want the lowest suit returned ie Clubs. If we had held the Ace of diamonds and had wanted a diamond returned we would have led a high hrt { th.e 10 or 7 }.*
Well you did ask !