

Homework answers -interior sequences

All the underlined cards are the ones to be led

1)KJ103 diamonds 2)Q1093 3)AQJ2 4)AJ102

NB these were the longest and strongest suits owned by the leader.

As usual , whenever the leader had three honours in a suit one of the honours is led.

The honour led is usually the highest of the touching two honours.

5)Partner led the J Hrts and we played the 9 from A93.

No doubt we had the best of intentions ie we intended to signal with our 9 that we had some interest in the Hrt suit BUT ...of course that wasn't good enough.

Partner's lead of the J may have been from KJ10x(x) and we should have played the Ace on the J and then smartly returned the suit. Declarer's Q would then never make a trick.

And yes it is true that partner's lead may have been from J10xx(x) BUT we would lose nothing by playing the Ace on the J and we will gain when it isnt. NB I do know, Phillida, that the lead of the J from J10xx(x) would be wrong thankyou.,but it has been seen before now.

6) On the lead of the 8Sp declarer would play the 9 { Rule of 11 dontchaknow ?} winning the trick and would then play on diamonds. When appropriate declarer would finesse the Q sp and bring home 9 tricks.

BUT on the lead of the J spades things are different . {In particular declarer cannot take an easy cheap spade trick }. The Q sp will win at trick 1 and when the defenders get in they will lead another high spade. Declarer can not make the contract on this defence.

7) reply 2H - a limit bid showing 6-9 pts

8) reply 2Sp -jump shift showing 16+ pts

9) reply 4D -splinter bid showing a single or void diamond and 4+ hrts.

10)reply 1Sp -the start of a DGR

11) By applying the Rule of 11 declarer knows that the 8 spades will win at trick 1. Declarer can come to hand with the Ace Hrts and take the spade finesse and will then have 9 tricks.

12)Partner's 6 Hrts is their lowest Hrt so presumably they don't have the Ace Hrts { nor the J }. Leading another Hrt will give declarer an extra trick.

Best to switch to the Q diamonds. Why did declarer duck with their Ace Hrts ?

The answer to the next question reveals all....

13) As the declarer you should try the effect of ducking the K sp lead.

Known as a Bath Coup { see previous notes} -the idea is that the leader m-i-g-h-t continue with the Q sp straight into the jaws of your AJ. What ? Nobody would do that you say. Dont believe it-in fact I bet on Question 12 above some did exactly that and led a Hrt , falling for the declarer's Bath Coup on that hand.

14) Well what about double ? If the opponents stay in 1NT doubled we can take at least 8 tricks {AKQJ987 cl + Ace H } so the opponents will lose at least 500 if Vuln.