

Counting the defender's points

What ways can we utilise this information?

- Has any defender shown strength?
- Has any defender made a bid (suit or NTs)?
- Has any defender made a value call - double ?
- Has he shown a number of points (honours cashed)?
- Has the lead placed certain points ?

Example 1:

The bidding goes:

(1NT) – X – (2♦) - ?

You hold:

♠ K75
♥ K75
♦ K7
♣ 76543

Where are the points:

Opener holds about 13, Partner about 17 so Responder holds? (not a lot). The practical bid is 3NT and you can place almost every card in the pack.

Example 2:

1♥ – (X) - ?

You hold:

♠ K753
♥ K7
♦ K764
♣ K65

You should be rubbing your hands here; LHO doesn't have any points (maybe a jack/queen). You might have game on but with a doubleton in Pard's suit nothing is certain. And the Oppo are not going to make their contract, are they? A Redouble is called for.

Example 3:

(1NT) – P – (P) – 2♠
(P) – 4♠ all PASS

You, as Dummy, hold:

♠ K753
♥ K7
♦ K764
♣ K65

The lead will be coming from the opening hand, so Pard should be able to work out, from that lead, how that suit is situated. It is doubtful that RHO will ever get the lead so the Opening hand will be end-played whenever he gets the lead.

Example 4:

(P-) – P - (1NT) – 2♠
(P) – 4♠ all PASS

You, as Dummy, hold:

♠ J1053
♥ A7
♦ QJ64
♣ K75

RHO leads the ♥Q, and you and Pard's holding is 23 HCPs. If Pard is looking for a side-suit honour, where is it?

RHO possibly holds a Q/J combination so doesn't hold another big card, so Pard can place all other cards.