

Analysis of hands of 19th Oct 2020

Bd 1. 1H by N double by E as he has a singleton H and South jumps to 3H showing a good raise to 2H and holding four hearts. The singleton small club is worth 2 extra points which brings the total to 8. No more bidding. That should be the final contract. I see one pair let E/W play in 3C. No way should that happen. You know you have 9 hearts between you so the law of total tricks tells you with 9 cards in a suit in a competitive auction that is the level to which you should bid. Therefore 3H. You should make that by setting up a diamond winner for a discard as you will not be able to ruff all the clubs.

Bd 2. Should be 1S - 1NT - 2S (some might rebid 2C but S suit is way better holding 6). Some obviously responded 2H instead of 1NT. You have a 6 count not 9 or 10 or 11 so its 1NT response and not 2H.

Bd 3. N opens 1H and South has 10 hcp plus 4 trumps plus a small doubleton diamond which is 1 extra point. You finesse the DQ and ruff two diamonds and also set up a S trick and a club trick. You will make 10 tricks even if you lose a H trick but you do not draw trumps until you have your ruffing done. South should make an invitational 3H to the 1H opening (its worth 11 hcp) and North with 14 goes on to game.

Bd 4. There are 10 top tricks here in 4H provided you discard your third losing S on the K of clubs and not a D like I saw at one table. The DQ was now isolated and couldn't be cashed. Except they were all tennis players at the table and they managed to lob the ball back over the net and let him make!!.. How they didn't take 3 spades I do not know.

Bd 5: South opens 1C. West with 13hcp **Should Pass as he has 4 cards in suit opened and holds no unbid suit. PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT MAKE TAKEOUT DOUBLES ON 12/14 hcp unless you are short in the suit opened against you and hold at least two 4 card unbid suits.**

Bd 8. 1H by S. West should not overcall 2NT showing the minors because 4 out of the 9 points are in the short suit (hearts) and because both West and East are passed hands it is not their hand to be bidding unless N/S stop in 2H. Now West can bid 2NT to show the minors.. North should bid 2H showing 6 to 9 and South with his 17 should bid 3H asking North if he was maximum to bid 4H which he is with his 8 count. Note the DQ is 2 points or else 2 points for a singleton but do not **count it twice. 4H should be the final contract.**

Bd 9 North opens a weak 2S. East should make a takeout double here in spite of not holding four hearts but he holds three and a singleton spade.. South should make it difficult by bidding 4S (He knows they have 11 spades so can afford non vul to sacrifice using the law of total tricks. You can safely do this against a vul making game. Now West is in a dilemma. He has 15 hcp and a singleton S and he knows there is almost certainly a slam on this so I think he should bid 5S with his singleton spade and his three 4 card suits asking partner to pick a suit and he should hear 6C from his partner.. Alternatively you could double 4S as takeout. The higher a takeout double the more likely it can be passed. If East bids 5C then I think West should raise to 6C. You should not be doubling weak 2 openings with flat 12 to 14 hcp like that awful double on board 5 above.

Bd 11: South should open 1S. He has 10hcp and holds 4 controls (An Ace = 2 controls) . If he does North will not stop until he reaches 4S as he holds a 13 count and three spades.

Bd 16: Defence to 4S. North on lead. If you lead a club into the AJ 4S will make. If leading a club, you should lead a low club indicating that you have an honour. If you lead a Diamond you can beat the 4S contract. You should lead the D7, the second highest card from a poor suit indicating that you do not have an honour. If you cash the K as well as the Ace you will set up the J for a club discard. Then 4S makes. At no table did it go down. However South, looking at two diamond tricks, should win the first trick with the DK and not the A (If he wins with the King then North knows he also has . Ace) After winning the first trick with DK he should switch to the club 7 indicating he has no honour in clubs. (Same as D lead of 7 at trick one - 2nd highest from poor suit with no honour). North will win the club K. Now back comes 2nd diamond to take your Ace and you also have HA so 4S should be beaten and it didn't involve one fancy move

Bd 19: 2NT - 3D - 3H -3S (3D transfer to H, 3S natural - now west could raise to 4S or cue bid 4C as is hugely interested in a slam holding super cards in both majors. Most would just raise to 4S and with the potential discards on your heart suit I think after asking for Keycards using 4NT Roman Keycard Blackwood in Spades you should bid 7S. Remember you have 14hcp , he has 20/22 and you hold a side suit of 5 hearts so definitely think you should bid 7S

Bd 20: You should automatically be in 6H after asking for aces. One pair got to NT. Oh my God. 1H -2D - 4H - 4NT - 5S (2 plus Q of H Keycards) - just bid 6H