

### Some Notes on Hands from RTC on Monday Oct 12th 2020

**Hand 1:** The play of the hand with QJ8 opposite A7xx in hearts. The proper way to play this holding and many variations such as Axx opposite QJxx where you are missing the K109 and 3 more is to lead low towards the QJ and not lead the Q out of your own hand first. With Axx opposite QJxx lead the A first and then low towards the QJ. And if Q or J wins lead low towards it again. In hand 1 when you win a trick in dummy with DQ if you lead low towards the QJ of hearts and if K goes up (it shouldn't) you now get three heart tricks

**Hand 4:** If you are playing weak NT then 1H – 2D – 2NT (15/17) – 3C – 3D – 4NT (Keycard) – 5D (0/3) has to be 3 – 5NT (Asking for Kings and maybe not necessary.) But **it always guarantees all the 5 Aces when you ask for Kings** – and the 17 count should bid 7D holding that valuable CQ knowing partner is interested in 7. Alternatively East after hearing about the 3 Aces might bid 7 hoping partner has Ax of clubs or AQx of clubs but I think its better to ask for Kings and the 1NT rebidder (15/17) is absolute Max for this hand in diamonds.

**Hand 5:** If North opens a weak 2S and it goes pass, pass, 2NT from West. Now East tries Stayman by bidding 3C and hears 3H and raises to 4H. Its amazing how few bid 4H. If N leads singleton club you should let it around towards your Q. Okay he can get a ruff but now on S return you finesse the Heart, drawing trumps. Then ruff a Spade and go CA and ruff a club setting them up. The SK gives you a diamond discard so you make 10 tricks

**Hand 7.** Should be 4S by South. If singleton D is led, take Ace and draw trumps .Now lead DQ and the set up D10 will give you a club discard or a H discard. If CK was originally led then after drawing trumps lead a C towards J to set it up and it will give you either a D or a heart discard. You need the HA to be right to make 4S.

**Hand 10:** If East opens 1NT and if South overcalls 2S then West should bid 3H forcing to game and showing 5 and not simply bid 3NT.

**Hand 13:** 3NT by North. Some people failed to make 3NT. You should not put all your eggs in the basket of the Spades dividing 3/3. You should lead the D9 hoping East had the 10. The Q appears so hit it. Come back to your hand with either a S or club and lead the D again and the K appears thereby setting up the DJ as the 9<sup>th</sup> trick.

**Hand 20:** If N opens 1S East should pass and not double to show opening points and asking partner to bid a suit. **Doubling 1 of a suit with a weak opening bid to show opening points you must be short in the suit that is opened and have at least two of the unbid suits.** You should be short in spades to make a takeout double. South will then respond 1NT and that should be the final contract. West should not be overcalling as has not sufficient values. West leads DQ and partner takes the first two tricks and switches to the H7. If South takes the A, then on lead of S10, East should not take the Ace. Declarer will now be limited to one spade and two clubs and one heart trick going 3 off. If declarer ducks the heart 7 west wins and takes the remaining diamonds. He then can switch to a club through the AJ. Declarer will be doing well to get more than 4 tricks provided the S 10 is let hold. Declarer could overtake the 10 with either the K or Q or J to get himself 5 tricks. (-200)

**Hand 21: Inverted Minor raise:** If you are playing 1C as showing as showing as few as 2, so when partner opens 1C if you respond 3C you are showing a minimum of 5 and a weak hand less than 10hcp whereas if you respond 2C you are showing 10+ hcp and also 5 clubs plus. So in hand 21 you respond 2C as South. Now North splinters and jumps to 3D making an unnecessary jump showing a Singleton and interest in playing in clubs. Once you know North has a singleton diamond you know he must have at least 4clubs. You should now use Roman Keycard Blackwood and ask for Aces. He will show you two out of the 5 Aces that is the CK and the HA. You also know you are missing the QC but that is not an issue as you have 10 or 11 clubs between you. Now you know he only has CK, HA and a singleton D so you know he must have top honours in H and S as the HA and CK only add to 7 points and he did jump after your 2C bid and not just make a minimum raise to 3C. Best to bid 5NT asking for Kings. **Remember this if you bid 5NT asking for Kings you are guaranteeing the 5 Aces (5<sup>th</sup> being the K of trumps). Never ever ask for Kings with 5NT if you do not have the 5 Aces.** Holding the North hand I would not tell how many Kings I had. When I hear 5NT I know we have the SA and I have KQxx and potential discards if needed. I have AK of Hearts. I know partner has DA and all the missing club honours so I simply bid 7C. **Note\*\*Inverted minors still hold after a 1 level suit overcall by opposition but not after double or 1NT overcall.**