For a Future LSBC Newsletter and Corner

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Evaluate your hand correctly and think about your second bid before making your first bid.

When you see that your defensive tricks are going to disappear you must play active defense and take your tricks quickly.



S 1NT (Yes, 1C would be a popular opening. But this hand is worth at least 16 points = 14 hcp + 1 for the 5th club in a decent suit + the AQ of diamonds is worth at least 1/2 a point, and I have 2 useful 10's for another 1/2 point. Marty Bergen teaches counting a point when having 3 aces. So, this might be a 17 point hand with aggressive counting, and a 16 point hand with conservative counting.

If I had opened this 1C and partner then bid 1 of a major. I would be stuck for a rebid. Too strong to rebid 1NT, bidding 2NT would be a stretch and so would reversing into a 3 card diamond suit. 2C shows a minimal opener with 6 clubs, that's not what I have. 3C shows 6 clubs and a better suit than this.

WΡ

N P (This is a perfect garbage Stayman hand. But the robots don't play that. Sad. I would have bid 2C and then passed whatever South bid)

E 2C (Cappelletti, showing a one suited hand - not necessarily clubs. Alertable)

SΡ

W 2D (Forced, allowing East to show its suit)

E 3C

S P (I'm having to defend against clubs, and don't double as partner has shown nothing)

Not wanting to lead from an ace, and not looking to lead from my trumps into declarer's. I lead a heart won by partner's king. On defense, tricks are won with the lower of touching honors. So, the King of hearts denies the Queen of hearts. (1st defensive trick)

Since declarer has the Queen of hearts, I can see that I must take my diamond trick before it disappears on the hearts.

Partner returns the Jack of clubs, covered by the King and ace. I then cash my 2 aces and lead a diamond to partner's King. (2nd-5th defensive tricks).

I still have 2 club tricks coming giving our side 7 tricks, for down 3.

If I don't take the diamonds right away, I will lose them.