

# Re: A hand with many decisions – Play Problem – The result

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  - *Date:* Fri, 24 Feb 2006 21:05:24 –0800
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<[pumpkin\\_644@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:pumpkin_644@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:1140805439.237601.19060@xx](mailto:news:1140805439.237601.19060@xx)

Sandy E. Barnes wrote:

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[news:1140752304.422292.81330@xx](mailto:news:1140752304.422292.81330@xx)

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"Sandy E. Barnes"  
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Match Points  
Both RED

You Hold:  
A32  
T652  
QT65  
KT

Auction:  
1D – 1H  
2H! – ?

You play a weak 1NT opening at these

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colors.

2H! = 15 –17 support points, possible 3 card heart support.

Please select a bid from the options listed below:

2NT (natural, balance game invitation)

3D (game try, non–forcing)

3H (game try, strongly suggests a 5 card heart suit)

3NT (offers a game choice)

More later.

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Later has arrived!

You decide to bid 3D since either black suit might be a weakness for no–trump, and your hand looks like a suit player. And, in addition, the diamond fit information may help partner decide what to do. The auction has become:

1D – 1H

2H! – 3D

3H – ?

And you get to make what may be the last mistake. What would you pick from the following list?

a. Pass

b. 3NT

c. 4H

\*\*\*

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I bid 3D at the table, thinking that I might correct to 4H if partner carried on to 3H over the 3D call. I was not put to the test since partner called 4H, somewhat unwisely, for reasons not explained to me. The opening lead was the Club 8 spot, and this is the dummy:

Dummy:

KJTX

AJXX

K9XX

X

Lead: Club 8, against 4H.

Declarer's hand:

AXX

TXXX

QT8X

KT

T1. C8, CX, CA, CT.

T2. D5, DX, DA, DX

T3. DX, DX, D2, D8

T4. CK, C2, SX, CX

You have been gifted with a defense which supports your auction, at least to this point. What is your line of play from here?

Sandy Barnes

We need to work out from the play to date whether LHO is more likely to hold Hx as opposed to Hxx of trumps, and then tackle hearts accordingly

When we asked the opps. about LHO's 8 of clubs lead, were we told "3rd and 5th" or "usually 4th best" ? If they said "3rd and 5th", what did they then say when we asked them what they lead from a 6-bagger? And

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what do they lead from a bad 4 or 5 card holding such as 876xx?

RHO's dangerous diamond shift is bizarre since the club spots should have told him that a club continuation was safe unless a) they were playing 3rd and 5th best leads; b) he has a 5-bagger and c) he holds AQ9xx of clubs and is afraid that his pard has led the 8 of clubs from KJ8xxx so a club continuation would have yielded a sluff and ruff.

But if this is what RHO is worried about it means that LHO has led the wrong club from his actual holding.

Alternatively RHO might hold AQ9xx(x) and is afraid that a club continuation will give us a free finesse (e.g. we hold KJT). This would imply he thinks his pard has led top of nothing from 876x(x).

Again, if this is what he was worried about it means that LHO has led the wrong club from J876(x).

It's possible that LHO has led top of nothing, but this means RHO didn't overcall 1D with some number of clubs despite holding AQJxx(x).

So when we mentally reviewed what we had learned about the opps. on the previous board (or previous occassions) did we come to the conclusion that one (or both) are fish?

If so, who is Nemo? LHO, RHO or both?

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The fish proved to be I. But are you going to join me as a fish? How are you going to attack the hearts?

Sandy Barnes

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Cheers.

Nick

I'll be happy join you in the pond, but before I decide on a line of play I need you tell me a) what the opps. would have said in answer to the questions I asked re their leads and b) what was your assessment of their level of play.

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I thought them weak. I expect that they were 4th best leaders, but I did not ask.

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Cheers.

Nick

If they lead 4th best, then the 8 of clubs was top of nothing. If so, clubs rate to be 5–5 because RHO would likely have overcalled holding AQJ9xx of clubs.

The difficulty with this conclusion is that it doesn't mesh with RHO's diamond play at trick 2. Holding AQJ9x of clubs, most players would have simply continued clubs at trick 2, particularly when our T fell on the first trick.

RHO's decision to make a dangerous diamond switch suggests he held AQ9xx(x), saw our CT and LHO's C8 at trick 1, decided we had KJT of clubs, and was afraid another club play would give us a free finesse.

Since RHO may have overcalled some number of clubs if his hand included AQ9xxx of clubs, it seems reasonable to play LHO to have J8762 and RHO AQ9xx.

Since LHO seems to have only 5 unknown cards (he appears to hold 5c's and 3 d's) while RHO has 6 unknown cards, it seems reasonable to play LHO for the shorter heart holding. We should therefore play a low heart to the J to cater to LHO's Hx of trumps.

This will also cater to LHO holding HHx of hearts, since he likely would not have bid at this vulnerability holding either xx–KQx–AJx–Jxxxx or Qx–KQx–AJx–Jxxxx.

Cheers.

Nick

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RHO Held:  
XXXX  
QX  
XX  
AQJXX

The winning line is to lead the heart 10. I fell from grace and led low to the jack. West had made an error by winning the diamond ace, not an uncommon error. Not leading back a club honor looked like an error at first, but, upon reflection, it was correct to switch to diamonds. It was the only defense to insure beating the contract! However, I was able to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Sandy Barnes

Your play seems normal as were LHO's diamond plays (RHO was much more likely to play diamonds at trick 2 if he held a singleton). By contrast, RHO's switch at trick 2 cost the defense any chance at a second diamond trick.

If RHO had simply played a club back at trick 2 you would have been in the dark as to the lay-out of the hand and would have made the normal play of a heart to the J. Since you still would have to guess the diamonds and the spades in order to get out for down 1, the club play at trick two would have given the defense excellent chances of beating the contract 2 or 3.

Cheers.

Nick  
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You might wish to re-think your position here. The diamond switch was the only defense to insure beating 4H. The error (by West) was not duking the diamond.

Sandy Barnes  
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