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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

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Q. 1 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

A Q K 9 Q 10 8 7 4 2 A J 6

What is your opening bid?

A – If you open one diamond, what do you plan to rebid over partner's response of one of major? Both two diamonds and one no trump are underbids, and three diamonds is a gross distortion of the suit quality. Just pretend one of your diamonds is a heart or a spade and open one no trump with your essentially balanced hand.

Q. 2 – As South, vulnerable, you hold:

A Q 6 2 K Q 5 A Q J 5 9 4

Partner opens the bidding with three hearts. What do you respond?

A – Rule one of pre-emptive bidding is that an opening pre-empt denies possession of two aces. So don't go inviting disaster by looking for pie in the sky. Bid four hearts.

Q. 3 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

9 7 6 K Q 8 7 2 10 Q 10 5 4

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 2 ?

What action do you take?

A – When you have just enough for a response to partner's opening bid, see what you can do to suggest that you don't have much by planning only one bid. The only action here that qualifies is a raise to two spades with your weak fragment.

Q. 4 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

A K Q 9 3 8 A 10 9 4 J 6 4

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1 Pass 2 Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A – Switch your heart and club holdings around, and your hand would be good enough for a high reverse of three diamonds. As it is, however, your singleton in partner's suit is a liability, not an asset. Rebid two spades.

Q. 5 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

K 7 3 Q J 9 5 9 6 3 7 4 3

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A – If you play one-no-trump forcing, by all means make that bid prior to signing off in spades, to show a dead minimum response. If you do not, it is a virtual tossup between a pass and a raise to two spades. Despite the flat hand, the honor in spades and the heart sequence, as well as the pre-emptive value, tilt matters in favor of the raise

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