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Chalk Talk

I didn't know that — part 12

38. After a major-suit agreement, a jump over game is considered Exclusion Blackwood. It is made with a slam-going hand that includes a void.

The jump is made in the void suit and responder does not count the ace of the void suit in the response. The king of the agreed suit, however, should be counted as an ace meaning that there are four "aces" possible in the response.

Responses are by steps. The first step shows "0", the second step "1", etc.

Opener holds:

♠AQ10xxx ♥AKQJ ♦— ♣KQJ.

Responder (a) holds:

♠Kxx ♥xxx ♦xxx ♣Ax xx

while responder (b) holds:

♠Kxx ♥xxx ♦Ax xx ♣xxx

and responder (c) holds:

♠Jxx ♥xxx ♦AKxx ♣xxx.

Opener

2♣⁽¹⁾

2♠

5♦⁽⁴⁾

?

Responder (a)

2♦⁽²⁾

3♠⁽³⁾

5NT⁽⁵⁾

(1) Strong and artificial.

(2) Waiting.

(3) Positive response.

(4) Exclusion Blackwood. A jump above game after major-suit agreement.

(5) Two of the four missing

"aces" (including the ♠K).

Opener

2♣⁽¹⁾

2♠

5♦⁽⁴⁾

?

Responder (b)

2♦⁽²⁾

3♠⁽³⁾

5♠⁽⁶⁾

(1) Strong and artificial.

(2) Waiting.

(3) Positive response.

(4) Exclusion Blackwood. A jump above game after major-suit agreement.

(6) One of the four missing "aces." Responder does not count the ♦A.

Opener

2♣⁽¹⁾

2♠

5♦⁽⁴⁾

?

Responder (c)

2♦⁽²⁾

3♠⁽³⁾

5♥⁽⁷⁾

(1) Strong and artificial.

(2) Waiting.

(3) Positive response.

(4) Exclusion Blackwood. A jump above game after major-suit agreement.

(7) None of the missing aces.

Responder does not count the ♦A.

Facing responder (a) who shows the ♠K and the ♣A, opener bids 7♠.

Facing responder (b) and knowing that the ♠K or the ♣A is missing, opener bids 6♠.

Facing responder (c) and knowing that both the ♠K and the ♣A are missing, opener signs off in 5♠.

39. On defense when winning a trick holding two equal honors, the norm is to win the trick with the lower equal.

If the bidding or play has marked you with the higher equal, however, win the trick with that card. If you win the trick with the lower equal, declarer will know you still have the higher equal.

♦ A J 10 x

♦ K Q

Say declarer starts by leading low to the dummy's ♦J. If you (East) have bid strongly and

declarer knows you have the ♦K,

win the trick with the king — the card you are known to hold.

Do the same with K-Q-x unless you don't care if declarer knows you remain with the king.

♦ A K 8 6 3 2

♦ Q J 7 5

♦ 9

♦ 10 4

At notrump North makes a safety play in diamonds by leading low to the 9 and 10. If you (West) win the trick with your jack, declarer will know you have the queen.

Why? Because East — holding Q-x or Q-x-x — would have jumped up with the queen, fearing declarer has the jack. If you win the trick with the jack, an astute declarer will lead low to the 8 next.

Another possibility is to duck the trick altogether if dummy has no side suit entry.

40. As declarer, play the card(s) you are known to hold unless you are into showing your hand to the opponents.

♥ 6 3 2

♥ Q

♥ K J

♥ A 10 9 8 7 5 4

East has preempted in hearts and you play a spade contract. West leads the ♥Q. From East's point of view, you have the king (the card you are known to hold) but it isn't clear who has the jack.

When East plays the ace, drop the king to protect yourself. After all, both of your honor cards are equals but one is a known card. At this point East can't be sure who is going to ruff the second round of hearts.

Had you played the jack under the ace (a truly ugly play), East would know you have the king and West would also know you have the king because partner's play of the ace denied the king.

♥ 6 3 2

♥ 9 5

♥ K Q J 7 4

♥ A 10 8

East has bid hearts, West leads the ♥9 and East plays the jack. ➤