

To encourage or to discourage? That is the question

Recently I have played in a really nice tournament on BBO that many big names played as well. one particular hand I wanted to share with you guys. A hand that got me thinking about.

W	Eliran_A
♠ 10872	
♥ Q108	
♦ K	
♣ KJ982	

E (our partner) is the Dealer and ALL VUL

1H from our partner and south bid 4D.

what would you bid?

we can either choose to bid: pass, X, or 4H.

all seems legit.

pass - not enough Hcp for 4H bid and KD single is wasted.

X - optional Bid. If our partner have balanced hand he should leave it. seems too dangerous.

4H - very aggressive.

I thought to myself that my partner would have a very difficult bid ahead of him and i decided to help him out and bid 4H. furthermore its not likely that our opponents would X us (we have at least 8 cards fit in heart) what gave me some confidence at the moment. 5D from north pass pass to me and I decided to X. N XX. pass pass pass.

So 5DXX is the contract and we lead the 8H (3/5) and this is the dummy:

N	MIDO
♠ AKJ94	
♥ 532	
♦ A4	
♣ Q106	

our partner plays the KH and declarer follow suit.

now our partner plays the AC declarer play low and it is our turn to play.

most of the players would play encourage in club. if you play high encouraging you would play the 9.

UDCA - up side down carding - you would play the 2 odd/even - you would play the 9 as well.

but the problem with encouraging the club suit is that when the declarer is having stiff club in his hand he would ruff the next club and cash all his diamonds and spades tricks and discard on the spades trick his heart loser.

so...to discourage the suit? if we discourage the suit our partner can easily have 6 cards H and may

continue with the AH. declarer ruff and again a club loser is gone on the spades winner.

so... whats the answer you are asking?

I figured out that we should discourage the AC. by doing that our partner will continue the heart suit when he is got 5 cards in the suit and continue club when he is got 6 cards in the heart suit. the only thing that matter in this hand is the fact that we have 3 cards and not 4 cards in the hearts suit and therefor we should discourage partner from continue with the club suit.

this was the full deal:

10

D

N MIDO

♠ AKJ94
♥ 532
♦ A4
♣ Q106

W N E S

4♥ 5♦ 1♥ 4♦
X XX P P
P

W Eliran_A

♠ 10872
♥ Q108
♦ K
♣ KJ982

E ronsheffy

♠ 53
♥ AKJ94
♦ 93
♣ A743

S Sodaspring

♠ Q6
♥ 76
♦ QJ1087652
♣ 5

5♦xx S

NS: 0 EW: 0