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The Tech invites the members of the Class of 1960 to express their opinions of the MIT.

The editorial board will not edit any judgment in what letters to print but will print none rated' signed. Name will be withheld upon your request.

The bidding:
S
W
N
H
A
1H
1NT
P
P

Opening lead: Queen of diamonds.

Straightforward bidding and straightforward foonses lost this hand to South. For that anything was wrong with the bidding but the fact that foonses lie in the hands do not make them mandatory. In other words, don’t foonses unless you have to.

Declares the winning lead on board and after pulling tricks proceeded to lead a spade and finesse. West was forced to re-identify and then had to lose another club and two more spades for down one.

However with a bit of thinking the hand is redeemable.

Declarer should pull trumps, play the king of diamonds, a small club to his ace, ruff his last diamond and lead the club, end-playing East. East is forced to lead a spade or else allow a ruff and a shift. By forcing the opponents to lead spades declarer can keep his losses to three tricks.

The bidding:
S
W
N
H
A

S-6
H-9
D-4
C-6
S-3
C-7
D-7
C-3
D-4
C-7
D-6
C-6
C-9
D-9
C-9
D-3
C-7
D-2
C-6
C-9
D-8
C-7
D-5
C-7
D-5
C-7
D-4
C-7
D-5
C-7
D-5
C-7

Opening lead: Jack of Spades.

The rookie bidder is always assumed when he sees an expert discard a good ace or king while defending a hand in order that he may defeat the contract. The above hand is a good example that even a non-expert can induce in him that he is willing to concentrate a little.

The jack of spades is captured by North’s queen; East plays the seven. South now leads small heart to his ace. To beat the contract West must pitch his king! If West does not, he will be forced to win the second or third heart. With West in the lead, South has an additional spade stopper and since the hearts will set up with the play of the queen from the board, South has now more worries. West’s only hope to defeat the contract is if East holds the jack of hearts with two little ones, and can get in and lead a spade through South’s king in time. It is obvious that the declarer has the king of spades and does not have the ace of hearts. If East had the king of spades he would have played it on the first round, since he played the seven, South’s king must still be protected. If South had the jack of hearts, he would have finessed hearts the first time he played them. If South holds fewer hearts, the contract can never be defeated, and West is only choosing awry one trick.

If West pitches his hearts of the contract, South cannot make the contract. South can take eight tricks at most, ace spades, two hearts, two diamonds, and three clubs, before he must beat East in.

—Jerry Davis ’60