For a Future LSBC Newsletter and Corner

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The correct bid may not be the same opposite a partner who has passed as opposed to a partner who has bid or not had the chance to bid.

Zia says knowing when to push the opponents to the 3 level is the single most important bidding skill.



NΡ

E 1C

S 2S (Weak. OK, this is not weak but a clear opener. However, partner is a passed hand and East has opened in second seat. It's possible that partner has a great fit for spades and we can make game, but not likely. I have 12 hcp but only the two aces pull their weight. Unsupported Queens and Jacks are usually not worth much - especially opposite a partner who has passed. An AJ combination is desirable when it heads up a long suit - not when it's a doubleton.

I don't like this hand on defense, so I make my initial bid a preempt at the highest level I'm willing to go to.)

W DBL (Showing the hearts and 9+ points)

N P (North should raise to 3S with 3 spades and a trick or two)

E 3C

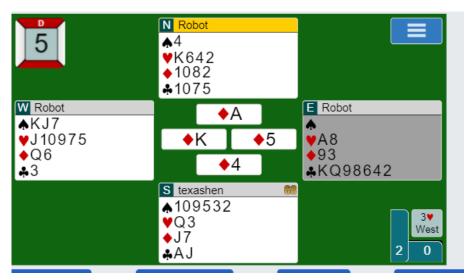
SP

W 3H (showing 5+ hearts)

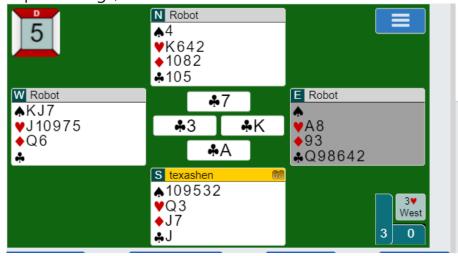
Passed out

A 3 level contract usually goes down in a 5-2 fit and that's what happened here.

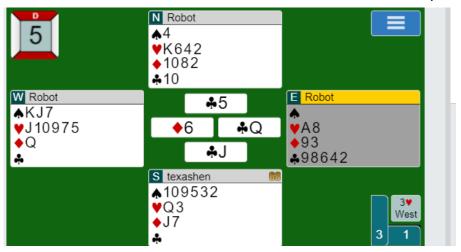
North led the 6 of spades. I won the ace and returned the 4 of diamonds - leading to the weakness on the board.



North won the ace and returned the 7 of clubs won by my ace. Aces are meant to capture Kings, we have now done that twice.



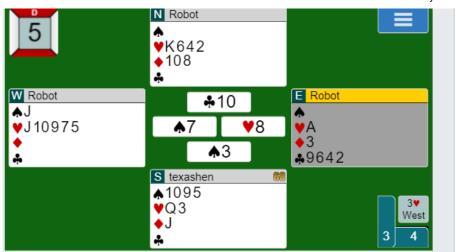
I return the Jack of clubs to the Queen, and West discards a losing diamond.



Declarer cashes the Queen of diamonds and the King of spades.



The 7 of spade is then ruffed in dummy.



The defense has taken 3 tricks and the King and Queen of hearts will take 2 more tricks for down 1 and a good score.