

What is declarer's shape?

Consider the following auctions and list what you know about declarer's hand

1. 1D 1H
 2D

A: 6 Diamonds, < (less than) 4 Hearts, < 4 Spades

You lead a low club from KTxx. Partner wins the Ace and returns a club which declarer ruffs.

A: Declarer has 1 Club, 6 Diamonds, therefore must be 3-3 in the majors

2.
1S 1N
2H 3C
3H

A: Declarer has 5 Spades, 5 Hearts

You lead a low diamond from QTxx. Partner wins the A and returns a 2nd one to declarer's K. Declarer leads a low club.

A: Declarer has 2 Clubs and hence 1 Diamond (to go with 5-5 in majors)

3.
1S 2C
2H 2N
3C 3S
4S

You lead the Club Q from QJT9. Declarer wins and leads a low Diamond towards dummy's QJx. You have Axxx in clubs before dummy, do you win the Ace?

A: Declarer has 5 Spades, 4 Hearts, 3 or 4 Clubs on bidding. Once diamond led, must be a singleton. Hence partner has the K Ds. You should not rise with Ace, since that would allow declarer to take a ruffing finesse on partner's K Ds, establishing a Diamond trick.

4.

1N 2C

2H 3N

4S

You lead 3C from QTx3, partner wins the Ace, and returns the 2 of clubs. Declarer wins the K, dummy has 2 small clubs. What is declarer's shape?

A: From the bidding, declarer has 4 Hearts and 4 Spades, thus 3-2 in minors. When partner returns the C2, should show she started with 4. Thus declarer has 3 Clubs, and hence 2 Diamonds

5.

1N 2C

2H 3N

4S

Partner leads the T of Diamonds, dummy has KJ84, you have A9xx. Does partner have a singleton diamond, hence you should give the ruff? Or does partner have a doubleton and you should duck (maintaining communication)?

A: Declarer has 4 Hearts and 4 Spades. If partner has a singleton Diamond, declarer would have 4 Diamonds, making his shape 4-4-4-1, not a NT opening shape. Hence partner has at least 2 diamonds, and likely a doubleton lead, so duck one round of diamonds. Hopefully partner can get in with a trump and will lead 2nd diamond to you for a ruff.

6.

1D 1S

1N 3N

Dummy's shape info? A: 4 Spades; with 5 spades, partner would rebid a new suit so you could show 3 card spade support. You also know dummy has <4 hearts as with 4-4 in majors, would have bid 1H first.

7.

1D 1S

1N How many diamonds does declarer have?

A: Declarer has at least 4 Diamonds. The only hand declarer will have 3 Diamonds is a 4-4-3-2 shape, hence 4 Spades. Since declarer did not raise spades, she must have <4 and thus not the 3 Diamond hand.

8.

1H 1S

1N

A: Declarer has 5 Hearts, 2 or 3 Spades, 2 or 3 Clubs (with 4 should rebid 2C), 2 or 3 Diamonds (ditto)