

THE ADVENTURES OF BORIS THE IMPROVER

Creating an entry, just in case

Boris was dealer and opened one diamond. Felicity overcalled two clubs and Lou doubled. This showed a few points and a four-card major. Boris jumped to three diamonds to show an interest in playing the contract in game. With no club stop Lou decided against three no trump and bid five diamonds instead. This became the final contract.

Felicity led the Ace of clubs.

Lou
♠ J 6 2
♥ K J 7 4
♦ Q 4 2
♣ J T 7

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ 5 3
♦ 8
♣ A K Q 9 6 2
Felicity

♠ K 8 5
♥ Q T 9 8
♦ J 5
♣ 8 5 4 3
Tabitha

♠ A T 3
♥ A 6 2
♦ A K T 9 7 6 3
♣ Void
Boris

Planning

Boris counted up his losers. One potential heart, two potential spades. He thought about taking the heart finesse, but didn't like his chances. If Felicity held all the outstanding honours she would have doubled instead of bidding. Boris had a better idea.

The play

Thinking he might need an extra entry to dummy, Boris ruffed the Ace of clubs with the 6 of diamonds. He followed up with the Ace of diamonds and was relieved to see that both opponents followed suit. Boris cleared the suit by leading the 7 of diamonds to the Queen and then led the ten of clubs which he ruffed with the 9 of diamonds. Boris next played the Ace followed by the King of hearts to get to dummy.

At trick eight Boris led the Jack of clubs from dummy and discarded the 6 of hearts from hand. Felicity has been end played. Boris can ruff a club in dummy and discard a spade loser from hand. If the Queen of hearts is led, it will be ruffed. If the ten is led it will be covered by the Jack and if the Queen follows it will be ruffed, leaving the 7 of hearts as the thirteenth card of the suit. Boris can get to dummy by playing the 3 of diamonds to the 4.

As the cards lie Felicity has no option but to lead a spade. Boris took Tabitha's King with his Ace and led the ten to establish the Jack as a winner.

Hopefully Helpful Hints

This is board 16 that was played on Monday 11th November 2019.

Results – 5NT by W 1 light, 6S by E 1 light, 2C by E making 2C, 3S by E making 4s, 3NT by E making 3NT, 2x 4S by E making 4S.

The correct contract is 4 spades. East should open 2C, West bids 2D, East bids 2S which shows at least a 5-card suit and West bids 4 spades. According to the computer 5 can be made.

As per convention since East is Declarer they are at the bottom of the page.

	Dummy	
	♠ 7 3 2	
	♥ A J 8 6 5	
	♦ J 9 7	
	♣ T 7	
♠ K 6 4		♠ T 8
♥ Q T 7 3		♥ 9 4 2
♦ 5 4 3		♦ Q T 8 6
♣ K 8 6		♣ 7 5 4 2
Mr Defender		Mrs Defender
	♠ A Q J 9 5	
	♥ K	
	♦ A K 2	
	♣ A Q J 3	
	Declarer	

Planning

Declarer has one loser each in the spades, diamonds and clubs. If dummy can be reached the diamond loser can be discarded on the Ace of hearts. The problem is getting there. Declarer should concentrate on creating an entry. Defence should concentrate on preventing this from happening. A Declarer playing correctly can make 6 spades against inaccurate defence.

The Play

On a club lead Declarer can win the trick with the ten in dummy and then comes back to hand with the Ace. The King of hearts is now played followed by the Queen of clubs. The King is ruffed on the way to Dummy and Declarer can discard the 2 of diamonds on the Ace of hearts. The King of spades will be the only trick the defence will make.

A diamond is a much better lead. As the cards lie playing the Ace of spades followed by the Queen might work if Mr Defender takes the Queen with his King. This creates the 7 of spades as an entry. This won't work if he ducks the Queen. When Declarer plays towards the ten of clubs, the King is played followed by the King of spades which knocks out dummy's last trump. The best way of getting to Dummy, is to play the clubs before drawing trumps.

After winning the initial diamond lead Declarer should lead a small club. If it wins play continues as with a club lead and six should be made. If the King wins and Defender leads a diamond, Declarer makes five by playing off two winning clubs and discarding a diamond from dummy. Those with a flair for the dramatic will prefer cashing the King of hearts, playing the Queen followed by the Ace of clubs which is ruffed in dummy. More fun than playing Ace - Queen and safer than discarding a diamond. Never overlook ruffing a winner to get to Dummy.

Brian Spendelow.