

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

As many of you may know, my partner Tim Wernz has had his share of medical problems as of late. While he may be a step or two slower entering the bridge club, there is no diminution of his bridge ability. Take a look at this one. He held:

AXX
KQJX
KX
KXXX

Partner opens one diamond and there is a one spade over call. Tim made a negative double. Partner now bid two clubs. Tim bid two spades. Partner continues with three hearts showing a 1-3-5-4 hand in all probability but almost surely a singleton spade. Tim now bid 4 no trump, found out that I had two aces and he bid slam IN HEARTS. Look at the complete hand

AXX
KQJX
KX
KXXX

X
AXX
QJ10XX
AJXX

6 clubs needs a three two break with the queen onside, about 34 per cent. It is a bad slam. Six hearts is much much better. You take a spade ruff in the short hand and make when the hearts are 3-3 or 4-2, about 84 per cent. This is diminished by the fact that you have to knock out the ace of diamonds before drawing trump. If the opponent with the ace of diamonds holds off until the second round and that person also has 4 diamonds, you will need a three- three heart break. In practice the ace of diamonds was led and the slam rolled home.

Six clubs had no play on this particular hand. Six hearts rolled home. We played in our 7 card fit instead of our eight card fit. You see hands like this in the Bridge world and the textbooks but they don't come up too often. Tim sure got it right on this one.

Irwin Boris