

Rubens' Pearls on Hand Evaluation (5)

..... on VALUATION TECHNIQUES: IN-AND-OUT VALUATION

- (in terms of offensive support) It is better to have your secondary honours in partner's suit and your primary honours outside it.

This pearl which relates to evaluating the offensive strength of a hand may seem counter-intuitive. Primary honours as defined by Rubens are Aces, Queens are secondary honours and Kings may fall into either category depending on how likely they are to take a trick. Secondary honours located within the agreed trump suit are regarded to be pulling their weight whereas if they are located in a side suit or worse the opponents' suit, they may have no offensive value at all.

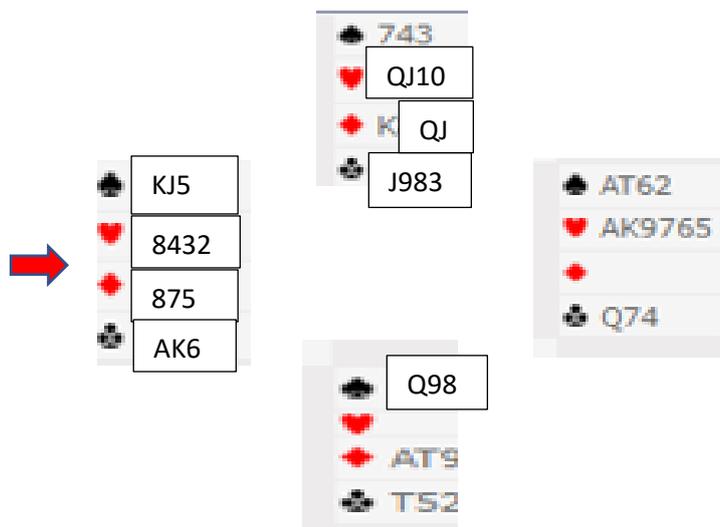
IN-AND-OUT COMPLIANT:

BOARD 6					
BD: 6	♠ KJT7643			Dir: E	
	♥ J97			Vul: EW	
	♦ J				
	♣ J9				
♠ A95		♠ Q8			
♥ A		♥ KQT6			
♦ QT42		♦ AK983			
♣ T7432		♣ Q8			
	♠ 2				
	♥ 85432				
	♦ 765				
	♣ AK65				
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT				
N			1		7
S			1		10 16
E	3	5		4	7
W	3	5		4	

Your partner East opens 1D and South passes. You have 10HCPs but according to the IN-AND-OUT principle, your support is very strong indeed. The hand makes 5D but only 1/7 pairs who contracted in diamonds, bid it.

IN-AND-OUT NON-COMPLIANT:

BOARD 3					
BD: 3	♠ 743			Dir: S	
	♥ T32			Vul: EW	
	♦ K85				
	♣ KJ83				
♠ J85		♠ AT62			
♥ QJ84		♥ AK9765			
♦ QJ7		♦			
♣ A96		♣ Q74			
	♠ KQ9				
	♥ AT96432				
	♣ T52				
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT				
N		3			7
S		3			11 13
E	1		4	3	3
W			4	3	3



In B3, West has 11HCPs and 4 card trump support opposite East's distributional heart hand, but West has only one primary card, the AC, outside the trump suit. The secondary diamond honours in the opponents' suit are wasted. The trump honours may also be. The hand still makes 4H. Replace the 6HCPs in red Queens and Jacks in the West hand with black suit Kings. The HCPs (and losers) in the West hand remain the same but, now the hand is In-and-Out compliant, a slam in hearts is makeable even with the 3-0 trump break.

