

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.

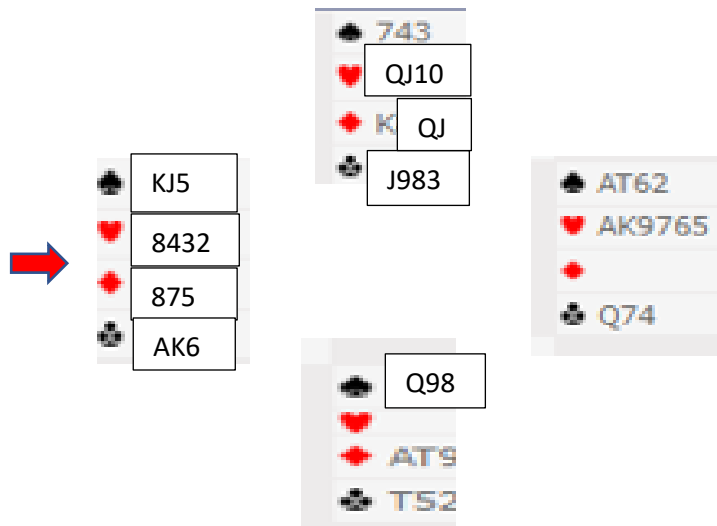
IN-AND-OUT COMPLIANT:

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.

Answer to Exercise (4):

♠ 743
♥ K8632
♦
♣ T8643

You are East. N-S are vulnerable and you are not. North opens 1D, you pass, South bids 2D (inverted minor=10+HCPs/no major), your partner bids 3D (long majors), and North bids 5D. Do you bid your hearts?

BD: 21 ♠ QJ82 Dir: N
 ♥ Vul: NS
 ♦ KQT9543
 ♣ A7

♠ AKT65 ♠ 743
♥ AJT975 ♥ K8632
♦ A ♦
♣ 5 ♣ T8643

9/12/21pm

♠ 9
♥ Q4
♦ J8762
♣ KQJ92

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	5			
S	1	5			
E			6	4	2
W			6	4	2

12
16 3
9

Your partner should be at least 5-5 in the majors. You have five card support for his hearts and a void in diamonds and around 10 Total Points. By the Law of Total Tricks (see Barbara's Idioms) you should be safe in 4H with your combined 10 card holding but you are at favourable vulnerability and a have a void in the opposition's suit. 5H should not come to much harm. As it happens your partner is not only super- strong distributionally but strong point-wise as well. If she is also a bit headstrong (lol) she may be tempted, based on you making a free bid, to go on to 6H which happens to make. The valuation of this hand is no longer about HCPs but all about distribution points and controls.

Exercise (5):

♠ Q84
♥ KT52
♦ T87
♣ T42

West (you)	North (Dealer)	East	South
	1C	Double	1D
Pass	2C	2H	Pass
??			

Your partner is showing a strong hand (16+HCPs) with a heart suit. Having passed originally, do you now raise partner with 4-card support and 5HCPs?

♠ 632
♥ T8
♦ AT75
♣ K876

West (you, dealer)	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1S	Double
2S	Pass	3C	Pass
??			

Your partner is showing a hand with interest in game by bidding a help suit. Having raised partner to 2S originally, do you now bid 3S or 4S?