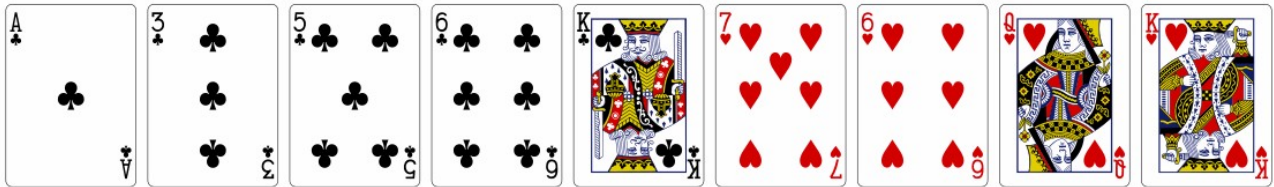


Christmas fun

Winnie the Pooh quote: *'Nobody knows what bees are thinking'*

Here's a funny example that my brother Sten and I experienced in the Funen Championship two weeks ago:



Our opponent had the cards shown above. What should you bid?

Solo in hearts/clubs? Pure nolo? Nolo ouvert? Or something else, game for example?

Both solos are somewhat small, but can of course win. I would probably go for the solo in hearts if I had to choose between the two solos.

BUT the nolo is interesting. Clubs will almost certainly not give you a trick. An opponent needs 5 clubs to give you a trick. But hearts are dangerous. You would have to discard the king and queen to get out of the danger zone. But how likely is it that an opponent has 3 hearts when you have 4, leaving 6? There are 18 cards in the two opponents' hands and 13 in the talon...

I would argue that if you choose the pure nolo, you might as well choose the nolo ouvert.

Isn't it unlikely that you get to discard both hearts before the opponents 'get going' with them. Then those cards will lose anyway, if they can go lose.

My calculations say that there is a 42% probability that one or two opponents have 3 hearts or more, and therefore the chance of winning the nolo ouvert is 58%. My immediate thought was that the chance of winning the ouvert would be higher.... Should you choose the ouvert?

But our opponent chose BUY-NOLO! He only traded away one card, the king of hearts.

Which is close to madness in my opinion, I have never seen this idea before. My argument against the idea is, that he can still lose in hearts and he also risks buying a big spade or diamond. His argument is, that he then only has to discard one heart - unless he buys another big heart, of course He bought the 2 of spades, and no player had 3 hearts, and the buy-nolo won easily.

So maybe my observations are not correct at all? Or maybe he just got lucky this time. After all, this can always happen. What do readers think about exchanging 1 for a buy-nolo on these cards?

The conclusion must be that no two l'hombre-players think alike!

I apologise that it's been a long time since the last 'fun games' article. I've been busy.

But I will try to improve, and in the future, these 'articles' will have a different format. They will be videos instead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hans Otto Lunde