

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 06/08/24 Hand No. 5

Dlr: North

Vul: N/S vul.

Bidding

N	E	S	W
P	P	P	1H
P	4H	P	P
P	P		

How to Play

Board five of the evening was played in a contract of four hearts at every table. Your losing club will go away on the third diamond winner, so ten tricks looks easy and if either the king of hearts drops or the ace of spades is with south you will make an overtrick or two. We are playing pairs, so every trick matters.

I received a diamond lead which I won with the king and played the ace of hearts hoping to drop the king, but no luck. It now looked like I should just cross to dummy and play a spade hoping that south held the ace of spades. Is there a chance of doing better?

There is no hurry to play spades, you can always do it later in the play, so how about playing three rounds of diamonds throwing your club loser and then play a heart giving north their king? They now have a choice of three suits to play and know little about the layout of the black suits. A diamond or a spade will help you. If they do play a club you will just have to win, cross to dummy with a trump and play spades as previously planned. By this play you have given north a chance to make the wrong decision. We should use every extra chance we can give ourselves.

So tip of the day – if you can give your opponents a chance to go wrong take advantage of it.