

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 20/08/24 Hand No. 5

Dlr: North

Vul: N/S vul.

Bidding

N	E	S	W
1D	P	2D	P
P	P	P	

How to Play

At most tables north opened a weak no trump and played there. The defence had the chance to take their five tricks before letting declarer in to cash lots of tricks in the minors.

Those playing a strong no trump were able to find their much safer diamond fit leaving the defence trying to gather as many tricks as possible to earn themselves a few extra match

points. On the lead of the queen of spades west wins and switches to first the king then the queen of hearts. East overtakes the queen to cash the jack just in case partner only has a doubleton. When everyone follows to the third round of hearts what does east do next?

If partner has the king of clubs (unlikely after the bidding) then it is not going to run away, so playing clubs now is unnecessary. Diamonds and spades don't seem to help your cause either, so how about playing the last heart? Partner only has one or two diamonds so can ruff your heart with their highest trump and that might just promote an extra trick. The last heart was led and Nick Haynes correctly worked out what partner was up to and ruffed with $\heartsuit 10$. Now the defence had a trump trick to come.

So tip of the day – look out for a possible trump promotion to provide you with an extra trick.

Hand Diagram:

- North (Dealer):** \spadesuit K 9 8 6, \heartsuit 9 8 6, \diamondsuit K Q 9 5, \clubsuit K Q
- South:** \spadesuit A 10 7 3 2, \heartsuit K Q 4, \diamondsuit 10 4, \clubsuit J 9 4
- East:** \spadesuit Q J 4, \heartsuit A J 10 5, \diamondsuit J 8 7, \clubsuit 8 7 6
- West:** \spadesuit 5, \heartsuit 7 3 2, \diamondsuit A 6 3 2, \clubsuit A 10 5 3 2