

# Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 26/11/24 Hand No. 1

Dlr: North

Vul: Love all

## Bidding

N	E	S	W
P	P	P	1S
P	4H*	P	4NT*
P	5D*	P	5H*
P	6D*	P	6S
P	P	P	

## How to Play

Board 1 was an excellent slam which only half of the field bid. After west opens one spade fourth in hand east has a very attractive hand. With only seven losers they have to get across the strength of their hand. Partner knows that they are a passed hand so will not get too carried

away if they make a slam try. The simple way for east to show a good hand is the auction above, where a four heart splinter shows a raise to game with a singleton in the bid suit. West now bids keycard Blackwood and finds that partner has no keycards. The five heart bid now asks for the queen of trumps and six diamonds shows the queen plus the king of diamonds. West signs off in six spades. If east did not have the queen of trumps then the response would have been five spades which would have been the final contract.

Another way for east to show a good hand would have been to start with a Jacoby two no trumps. Then some pairs might bid 1S-2NT-3C-3H-4C-4D-4NT-5D-5H-6S. The three club bid shows a singleton in that suit, as does three hearts. Then we have a couple of cue bids before using keycard.

Many pairs play splinters so you also need to know how to defend against them. When opponents show a singleton you know they are not going to play there so what does a double of a splinter show? If you are not vulnerable then there is a chance you may have a save in the splinter suit, so there is a case for the double to show the suit as partner may have good support. If you are vulnerable you are unlikely to have a good save, so a number of pairs play that a double asks for a lead of the lowest unbid suit. On the hand above both north and south are already passed hands so the save in hearts seems out of the question. Therefore a double of four hearts would ask for a club lead. This would have saved the overtrick and a number of match points on this hand.