

# Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 14/09/23 Hand No. 19

Dlr: South

Vul: E/W vul.

## Bidding

N	E	S	W
		2C*	P
2D*	P	2S	P
3S	P	4C*	P
4H*	P	4S	P
4N*	P	5C*	P
5D*	P	6S	P
P	P		

## How to Play

I have two offerings here from the first evening of the pairs league. The hands all night were very interesting with a number of slams which required careful play. Here are two of them.

With nine playing tricks South opened a strong two clubs and north with an opening bid themselves decided that slam was an almost certainty. They could have made a positive response, but felt that it may be easier to find out about partner's hand, so decided to start with a simple two diamonds. After two spades from south a simple forcing three spades allowed a couple of cue bids before Roman Keycard Blackwood established that south had four keycards. The five diamond bid asked about the queen of trumps and six spades showed the queen, but no outside king as south would have shown that king by bidding the suit at the six level. So six spades seemed the correct place to play.

The J♥ was led and south realised that it looked like East had the K♥. So with eleven top tricks it seemed that the only chance of a twelfth trick would come from the diamond suit. So how do you play?

The contract can always be made if the trumps break 2-1. You win the A♥ and draw two rounds of trumps. Now cash A♦ and K♦ then lead J♦ planning to throw away your losing heart if east does not play the queen. If the diamond does run around to west's queen then whatever the return you will be able to cross to dummy with the J♠ to throw away your losing club. With the friendly layout of the diamond suit on the evening you even make an overtrick. This play will also work if you had received a club lead, but you will then be planning to throw away your losing club on J♦.

# Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 14/09/23 Hand No. 27

Dlr: South

Vul: Love all

## Bidding

N	E	S	W
		1D	P
1S	P	3D	P
4C*	P	4H*	P
4N*	P	5S*	P
5N*	P	6D*	P
7D	P	P	P

## How to Play

After a couple of cue bids, south showed two keycards plus the trump queen and then one king. Partner then optimistically bid the grand slam. Can you live up to the faith partner has in you?

You win the spade lead and draw trumps in three rounds throwing a spade from dummy. With twelve top tricks where is the thirteenth coming from? The clubs may break 3-3, but are there other chances? One possibility is that one defender has three hearts to the queen. So you can cash the AK♥ and then cross to dummy with a club and ruff a heart. If the queen appears you are home. If it does not then you can cash all of your trumps and perhaps west will have started with four clubs and four hearts. They will be squeezed when you play your last trump as they cannot hold on to both Q♥ and three clubs.

On the actual hand all lines led to thirteen tricks, but it's nice to be able to practice the correct technique to make your contract.

**So tip of the day – when playing slams count your obvious tricks VERY carefully. When you are a trick short make a plan as to how you can safely develop the extra trick.**