

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 10/12/24 Hand No. 6

Dlr: East

Vul: E/W vul.

Bidding

| W | N | E | S |
|-----|---|------|----|
| | | P | 2S |
| X | P | 2NT* | P |
| 3C* | P | 3S* | P |
| 3NT | P | P | P |

How to Play

On board 6 only two pairs out of eleven bid and made a vulnerable game with a combined twenty-eight points with ten tricks available in both hearts and no trumps. South opens a weak two spades and with eighteen points west is forced to double for take-out as they have no spade stop. Now over to east who has ten points more than partner could expect. Partner's double is forcing you to the three level, so partner must have a good hand, enough for you to be able to make game. Two possibilities come to mind three no-trumps and four hearts. Without any conventional methods you must just choose one of them and bid it. When south leads the king of spades you know from the bidding that south has six spades and north has two. So you should duck the opening lead and win the next round. The south hand is now out of the game as even if they have one of the red kings you will be finessing through that hand. The play in no trumps or hearts is similar. You play hearts first to draw that suit and then you take the diamond finesse afterwards which will result in ten tricks in either contract.

There are conventions available to help you with this hand that are in common use with tournament players. The most popular one is named Lebensohl and I have detailed the sequence above. Lebensohl is most commonly used when your opponents overcall your one no trump opening, but can be extended to other situations where your opponents bid at the two level. The two no trump bid tells partner to bid three clubs. It's a bit like a transfer, but does not necessarily show clubs. After partner bids three clubs you now describe your hand. If you simply want to play in a part score at the three level you pass with clubs or bid a red suit to play there. On the actual sequence the three spade bid shows a hand that wants to play in game and has both a four card heart suit and a stop in the spade suit. Partner now chooses where to play. On this hand it will be three no trumps. If you Google Lebensohl on the internet you can get full details of the convention.

Merry Christmas.