

## Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Thursday Evening 11/05/23 Hand No. 13

Dlr: North

Vul: All vul

### Bidding

N	E	S	W
1D	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

### How to Play

This board started with an interesting rebid problem for North after they opened 1D and partner bid 1NT. A 3D rebid understates the hand so a number of players simply raised partner to 3NT hoping that the diamond suit would bring in a suitable number of tricks.

Against that contract West started with a normal fourth highest 4♠ which declarer ducked in dummy to ensure that they made at least one spade trick. East won the Queen and returned a spade, leaving West to ponder what was happening in the suit. Partner would have played J♠ holding both the Queen and the Jack so they could work out that declarer held that card. Also, declarer did not bid 1♠ in response to their partner's opening so therefore could not hold four cards in that suit. So declarer must hold three spades to the Jack. It's very tempting to snaffle dummy's K♠, but does it help? Declarer has a spade trick, whether it is the King now or the Jack on the next round of the suit. The one card your side must have to defeat the contract is for your partner to hold Q♦. When they win that trick later in the hand how do you get to enjoy the spade tricks you have set up as you have no quick entry? The answer is to duck the second round of spades. When partner gets in you now have the communication to enjoy those tricks.

On the actual hand it did not matter as the diamonds were very unfriendly for declarer, but just swap a club and diamond between the East and South hands and this play was essential. Well done to any West's who found this play.

**So tip of the day – when a suit is played try to work out how the suit is distributed, including using the bidding to help you. Then plan ahead...**

♠ K7  
♥ AJ8  
♦ AKJ8762  
♣ J

♠ A10843  
♥ 5432  
♦ 4  
♣ KQ5

♠ Q95  
♥ K976  
♦ Q1095  
♣ 109

♠ J62  
♥ Q10  
♦ 3  
♣ A876432