

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 13/06/23 Hand No. 2

Dlr: East

Vul: N/S vul

Bidding

N	E	S	W
	P	1D	P
1S	P	2C	P
2D	P	2S	P
3NT	P	P	P

How to Play

One of the most awkward hands in bridge is when you are dealt a strong unbalanced hand which is not strong enough for a game force. This evening featured two boards which posed exactly that problem. Starting with board 2 how do you deal with the bidding on the South

hand? After a normal 1D opening and a 1S response from partner you have a very nice hand, but have a choice of bids. Supporting partner immediately is an option, but a simple raise to 2S understates the hand. You have the values to bid 3S, but partner will expect you to have four card support. Jumping to a game forcing 3C is too much as you cannot guarantee that you can make game. It's all a bit unsatisfactory, so you have to be patient and just bid your suits. Start by bidding 2C and hopefully partner will bid again and you can now bid a descriptive 2S showing your hand shape and also more than a minimum opening hand as you would have simply supported spades immediately with that hand. Fortunately, on this hand partner will correct to 2D and you can carry out your plan by bidding 2S. Partner can now count that you have enough points for game and with two heart stops can bid the obvious 3NT game.

Armed with this knowledge of how to bid the hand, along comes board 25 of the night when South this time held ♠AKQ ♥AK984 ♦10984 ♣8. After opening 1H partner bids 1S and you are in an almost identical position. Bidding 2D is now the correct thing to do, hoping to be able to bid 2S on the next round. As it turns out partner with only seven points will pass, but at least you are in a sensible contract which you will make for an above average score on the hand.

Dealing with these hands is not easy. Some of the top players use a convention called Gazzilli to try to deal with them. If you are one for conventions, a bit of research on the internet will give you descriptions of how it works. Otherwise, I'm quite happy to offer a quick explanation.

So tip of the day – more planning ahead required, but this time you need it during the auction.

♠ J 10 8 6
♥ A Q 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ Q 8 3

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ K 6 5
♦ K Q 7 5
♣ 7 6

♠ A 5 2
♥ 8
♦ A J 10 9 6
♣ A K J 5

♠ 7 4
♥ J 10 9 7 4 3
♦ 8
♣ 10 9 4 2

N
W E
S