

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 09/05/23 Hand No. 25

Dlr: North

Vul: E/W vul

Bidding

N	E	S	W
P	2NT	P	3C
X	3S	P	4S
P	P	P	

How to Play

On a club night it's rare that we all manage to play in the same contract on a particular hand, but we did manage it on board 25. Everyone reached the same 4S contract, so it was just about how many tricks were made. After the 2NT opening by East South has an unenviable choice of leads. They may all give a trick away. Leading away from a King into the 2NT bid does not seem advisable, so it has to be one of the black suits. Leading a singleton trump rarely is a good thing. When we lead singletons in suits outside of trumps we stand a chance to gain as we may receive a ruff in that suit later on, but when the suit is trumps all we can do is help declarer as four players managed to do on this hand. Without that lead declarer is likely to lose a trump trick.

If you held the North hand did you think of doubling when West bid Stayman? You may have a weak hand, but your clubs are quite good and you may well help partner find the right lead. It certainly works on this hand. Our partners need all the help we can give them.

So tip of the day – don't lead a singleton trump against a suit contract if there is a chance it may help declarer.

Hand Diagram:

- North (N): ♠ Q 8 7, ♥ 5, ♦ 10 7 5 3, ♣ Q 10 9 5 3
- South (S): ♠ A 6 5 2, ♥ Q J 10 7, ♦ 9 4, ♣ 6 4 2
- East (E): ♠ K J 9 4 3, ♥ A 6 3, ♦ A Q 8, ♣ A K
- West (W): ♠ 10, ♥ K 9 8 4 2, ♦ K J 6 2, ♣ J 8 7