

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 11/07/23 Hand No. 5

Dlr: North

Vul: N/S vul.

Bidding

N	E	S	W
1D	3C	X	3H
P	4C	4D	P
P	P		

How to Play

Board 5 may have seemed quite innocuous for North/South with their balanced 12 points opposite a balanced 11, but their opposition had a few surprises in store which offered a chance for a very nice defence. East started by leading 2♣ which West can work out from the bidding

is certainly not a fourth highest lead. Partner has a reason for the lead and it must be suit preference for the lower suit from hearts and spades. West can cash A♥ giving East a chance to discard 9♠ and 2♥ is now played for partner to ruff. This time, the heart led is suit preference for the lower suit of clubs and spades, so after a club ruff West now plays J♥ for another ruff. This time, as a high card it is suit preference for spades, so Q♠ is led to the ace which is followed by a spade ruff. After all of that East/West have accumulated seven tricks to beat the contract by four tricks. A huge score on the board.

A number of those suit preference signals may not have been needed on the hand as the defenders can work out what is happening, but it is nice to practice these things. It may be very important next time.

So tip of the day – give suit preference when you can, our partner’s need all the help we can give them.

♠ K J 10 6
♥ Q 8 4
♦ K 8 6 3
♣ K 10

♠ A 8 4 2
♥ A J 9 5 3 2
♦ 10 7
♣ A

♠ Q 9
♥ -
♦ 9 5 2
♣ Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 2

♠ 7 5 3
♥ K 10 7 6
♦ A Q J 4
♣ J 3