

# Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 23/05/23 Hand No. 8

Dlr: West

Vul: Love all

## Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
1C	P	1H	P
1S	P	3NT	P
P	P	P	

## How to Play

Another hand where every table played in the same contract, perhaps it's more common than I thought. So it was all down to how many tricks were made. A diamond (the unbid suit) was led at twelve of the fifteen tables. At seven tables it was the  $\spadesuit 3$ , at three tables a second highest from a poor suit  $\spadesuit 5$  and at two tables  $\spadesuit 10$  which looks like top of nothing. East wins the Ace and has to decide what to do next. South with plenty of bidding room available has jumped to 3NT so this certainly makes you think they have no worries about the Diamond suit. What can you tell from partner's lead? Those leading a second highest diamond or  $\spadesuit 10$  made it easy for East to work out that declarer held the  $\spadesuit KQ$ . Those receiving a small diamond lead are a little bit more in the dark so will just have to judge from the bidding. A switch to a different suit is required and surely that must be Hearts. So  $\heartsuit Q$  was now played leaving South with the problem of what to do facing that defence. As you can see from the layout of the Hearts covering the Queen immediately allows a Heart to be played back to the Jack and then two more heart tricks beat the contract. Can declarer prevail? They can against any layout of the heart suit. The answer is to duck the first round of hearts and then cover whichever card East leads on the second round. West is now conveniently on lead and the defence cannot pick up two more tricks.

**So tip of the day – another hand where listening to the bidding and looking at the play to the first trick helps you make the correct play at trick two.**

Hand layout diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East. North:  $\spadesuit KQ43$ ,  $\heartsuit 6$ ,  $\diamondsuit J9$ ,  $\clubsuit AK7632$ . South:  $\spadesuit 852$ ,  $\heartsuit QJ87$ ,  $\diamondsuit A872$ ,  $\clubsuit 84$ . West:  $\spadesuit J76$ ,  $\heartsuit A1054$ ,  $\diamondsuit 10543$ ,  $\clubsuit J5$ . East:  $\spadesuit A109$ ,  $\heartsuit K932$ ,  $\diamondsuit KQ6$ ,  $\clubsuit Q109$ .