

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 26/09/23 Hand No. 24

Dlr: West

Vul: Love all

Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
1D	P	3D	P
4H*	P	4S*	P
4NT*	P	5C*	P
6D	P	P	P

How to Play

This was an excellent slam which was only bid by two pairs. After one diamond by north their partner has an eight loser hand which makes it worth a full value raise to three diamonds. What does north do now? Partner's points could be spread anywhere between the other three suits,

wouldn't it be nice if they were concentrated in spades and clubs. How do you tell partner that those are the important suits and not hearts? A number of us will play splinters after an opening one of a major. So a jump to say four clubs will show support for the major and a singleton or void in the suit bid. If the opener has Axx or xxx in the splinter suit they will know that there are no wasted points in the suit. If they have perhaps KJx this is bad news as those points may develop no tricks at all apart from the ruffs in dummy and you are likely to have losers in the other suits. Any bid which shows a singleton really helps a partnership evaluate their hands. On board ten of this set west (playing Acol) held a very minimum two hearts response to their partner's one spade opener, but after partner bids four clubs as a splinter their holding of ♣A10 became much more valuable.

On this hand we just have a more complicated version of a splinter. After you have agreed a suit a jump in a new suit is a splinter. The south hand can now see that the K♠ and A♣ are in suits that partner holds length so will help partner develop tricks there. The south hand is worth a cue bid of four spades and this also tells partner that they have not been put off by knowing that their partner has a singleton heart. North now checks on keycards, finds one ace and bids the slam. With trumps breaking 2-1 it is an easy make.

Those who play inverted minors can start the bidding with 1D-2D-3H and carry on bidding at one level lower.

So tip of the day – splinters are a very useful bidding tool so use them when you can.