

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 29/08/23 Hand No. 17

Dlr: North

Vul: Love all

Bidding

N	E	S	W
P	1NT	P	2D
P	2H	P	P
P			

How to Play

This was one of the quieter boards of the evening, but it gave my partner Roy Collard a chance to show some good technique in a far from simple two heart contract. The lead was K♠ and declarer was immediately looking at two spade losers, three diamond losers and also had the missing king of trumps to deal with. After winning the lead he could take the club finesse in two different ways to try to dispose of one of those losers. Either the normal finesse through the north hand or he could play a club to the ace and then play Q♣ to take the ruffing finesse against the south hand. The normal finesse has the drawback in that if it loses you will immediately lose five more tricks. However, if the ruffing finesse loses then you will have thrown a losing spade or diamond from dummy so you still have a chance to make your contract. At the table declarer opted for the ruffing finesse and saw south cover the queen of clubs with the king, so declarer had set up a winner in hand ready for a discard. Now do you try to be greedy? If north has K♥ you can take the heart finesse and make the overtrick, but risk going off in your contract. Things had gone well on the hand so far, so a heart was played to the ace and a loser disappeared from dummy on J♣ ensuring that the contract was made exactly for a very good score on the evening. It is certainly very nice to be writing plus scores down on your scorecard.

So tip of the day – when you have a choice of a normal finesse or a ruffing finesse, the ruffing finesse may have an added bonus.

♠ 10 8 3
♥ 9
♦ A Q 10 3
♣ 10 8 6 4 3

♠ A 6 5
♥ J 10 8 6 5 2
♦ J 9 4
♣ 9

♠ 7 4 2
♥ A Q 7
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A Q J 5

♠ K Q J 9
♥ K 4 3
♦ K 7 5
♣ K 7 2

North (N), South (S), West (W), East (E)