

# Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 09/01/24 Hand No. 9

Dlr: North

Vul: E/W vul.

## Bidding

N	E	S	W
1D	P	1H	P
1S	P	2C*	P
3H	P	4N*	P
5C*	P	6H	P
P	P		

## How to Play

I have two offerings here. One from Tuesday evening and the second an amusing hand from the Camrose Home Internationals held last weekend which proves that we all have a chance to do well in this game.

♠ Q 9 5 2

♥ Q 10 5

♦ A K Q J 7

♣ 3

♠ 8 7 4

♥

♦ 10 9 8 4 2

♣ K Q 10 8 7

N

W

E

S

♠ K J 6 3

♥ K 4 3

♦ 6 3

♣ J 6 4 2

♠ A 10

♥ A J 9 8 7 6 2

♦ 5

♣ A 9 5

On Tuesday evening only four out of thirteen pairs bid this slam where you make thirteen tricks with the heart finesse being right. After a one diamond opener and a one heart response north has a choice of bidding one spade or raising their partner to two hearts. With this hand shape and a minimum north should raise immediately. With a stronger hand north should bid one spade and then (if given the chance) bid hearts on the next round. The hand here certainly fits into the stronger category so north bid one spade and south knew they should be playing in game, but where and how to find out? The answer is to bid a fourth suit forcing two clubs asking partner to describe their hand further. North now finds the very descriptive bid of three hearts and south can work out that their partner's hand shape is three suited with at most one club. South can see there are no club losers and dummy is extremely likely to have at least one king to dispose of the spade loser. Blackwood now follows and north shows one keycard so south bids the slam.

Declarer has to play the slam carefully to make thirteen tricks. Crossing to dummy with a diamond to take the trump finesse and when this wins play winning diamonds through east.

**So tip of the day – when you have game values, but are not sure where to play use fourth suit forcing to ask partner to describe their hand further so that you have more information.**

# Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Sunday Afternoon 07/01/24 Hand No. 21

Dlr: North

Vul: N/S vul

## Bidding

N	E	S	W
1C*	1NT	2C*	X
2S	P	P	X
P	P	P	

## How to Play

The home internationals for the Camrose Trophy are held over two weekends in early January and early March. This past weekend I was the non-playing Captain of the Welsh team down in Newport. Gloucestershire also had representation in the form of John Atthey and Ben Handley-Pritchard playing for the two English teams.

These events are broadcast online on RealBridge so players at home can watch as hands are played and listen to expert commentary. For the final set on Sunday they were one computer operator short so they twisted my arm to sit at a table and record each bid as it was made and each card as it was played. I was given the England against Ireland match, so was a very close witness as to what happened on this hand.

The bidding needs some explanation. Playing a strong NT north opened one club showing at least two cards in the suit and east overcalled one no trump. The fact that they did not have enough points or a balanced hand did not deter them. South now bid two clubs to show both majors. The fact that their side were vulnerable against not and their right hand opponent had advertised a strong hand did not seem to be a problem. West joined the party by doubling. What this showed I do not know, but they certainly did not have any club values. The bidding finally came to rest in two spades doubled played by north and east led a trump won by north who now contemplated what to do next. Perhaps hoping to set up the club suit declarer decided to play 3♣ away from hand. East looked at this and thought partner for their double of two clubs will surely have some high cards in the suit, so played 4♣, dummy played 5♣ and west contributed 2♣. It took a moment for declarer to realise they had won the trick. Dummy had a big smile on his face. The contract eventually went two off for +500 to Ireland, a good score which could have been much better.

	♠ A J 9	
	♥ A 6	
	♦ J 6 5	
	♣ Q 10 9 7 3	
♠ 10 8 7 6 3		♠ 5
♥ K 10		♥ Q 9 7 2
♦ K Q 8 7 2		♦ A 9 4
♣ 2		♣ A K J 8 4
	♠ K Q 4 2	
	♥ J 8 5 4 3	
	♦ 10 3	
	♣ 6 5	