

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Morning 19/03/24 Hand No. 14

Dlr: East

Vul: Love all

Bidding

N	E	S	W
	1NT	2D	3S
P	3NT	P	5C
P	6C	P	P
P			

How to Play

Simon Ryley sent me this hand from this morning's Gentle Bridge session. His partner Simon Kane opened a weak NT, south overcalled a natural two diamonds and now he was faced with a more than interesting hand. Just three losers and partner must have some support for his two suits as they have a balanced hand. If partner has certain important cards then slam is a possibility, but how do you find that out?

After interference from the opposition over a one no trump opener it is normal practice that a bid at the two level is to play there and a bid at the three level is natural and game forcing. Most Tournament players these days also like to play a convention named Lebensohl which allows you to show a number of other types of hands, so if you are one for conventions look that up on the internet.

So, on this hand you start by bidding three spades and partner bids three no trumps. Now a leap to five clubs describes your hand very well. A good hand with lots of black cards and slam interest. Now over to east looking at four trumps and the Ace King of spades. Surely those two cards are gold dust. Just the cards that partner requires. So a raise to six clubs is next. Players play many conventional sequences these days, but sometimes the good old natural sequences do the job.

The best scoring spot on the layout of the cards is six spades, but that may go off with a bad spade break, whereas six clubs will make nearly all of the time.

Diagram illustrating the card layout for the hand, showing North (N), South (S), East (E), and West (W) hands. The cards are arranged around a central green square representing the table.

North (N):

- ♠ 8 3
- ♥ K J 9 8 5 3
- ♦ 10 8 7 2
- ♣ 7

South (S):

- ♠ Q 10 9 7 6 4
- ♥ 2
- ♦ -
- ♣ A K Q 10 8 6

East (E):

- ♠ A K
- ♥ Q 10 4
- ♦ Q J 9 5
- ♣ 9 4 3 2

West (W):

- ♠ J 5 2
- ♥ A 7 6
- ♦ A K 6 4 3
- ♣ J 5