

# Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Thursday Evening 08/06/23 Hand No. 3

Dlr: South

Vul: E/W Vul.

## Bidding

N	E	S	W
		1D	3H
P	4H	P	P
P			

## How to Play

A brief auction led to an ambitious 4H contract. The scoring was imps, so aggressive vulnerable games need to be bid. West is quite minimum for their bid at the vulnerability, but East has a normal raise to game hoping for a Diamond lead that will set up some discards.

North led  $\heartsuit 6$  as expected and South won giving them a chance to think about the hand. At the vulnerability West will almost certainly have a seven card Heart suit which will leave partner with just a singleton trump. It's very unlikely that partner will have two singletons so they decided that tricks needed to be cashed outside. The King and Queen of clubs won the next two tricks and South now switched to  $\spadesuit Q$ , not being sure where the setting trick might come from. The attention now switched to declarer who had an obvious trump loser. Was there a chance to make the contract? The only chance seemed to be a bit of a con trick in the trump suit. After winning the  $\spadesuit A$  in dummy, the  $\heartsuit J$  was led giving South a chance to err. We cover Honours with Honours to save tricks and sometimes do it automatically, but here, when we know partner only has one trump, it cannot help us so should be avoided. Well done to the players who did manage to make ten 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. Perhaps there is a theme developing here. Think about these things carefully and make a plan. Also, when a suit comes along where you may be asked to cover an Honour with an Honour, is that the correct thing to do?**