

## Sligo Intermediate Championship - Thursday 26th May 2022

Board	Contract	By	Lead	Topic of the hand
1	4H	N	C8	Declarer can avoid the spade finesse if he endplays the defenders - so by drawing trumps and cashing 2 clubs, he can exit on a diamond and hope that the defenders play a spade or a diamond back.
2	4S	W	HJ	Cash 2 trumps. Discard one diamond on the 3rd club. Cash second top diamond to endplay South otherwise endplay him with SQ.
3	3NT	S	H6	Win T1. Keep East off lead. Lead clubs toward dummy and allow West's Q to hold when it appears.
4	3NT	N	S6	Keep West out. Duck a club to East by leading a club from dummy to the 9 in hand. East needs to keep all of his spades.
5	4S	W	CA	Run S10. Ruff 2 hearts in hand then cash your side winners ending in dummy. South never gets his SK. Trump Coup.
6	4H	S	D9	Ruff 4th diamond with H10 or H9. Now ruff a spade. East never gets his HJ. Trump Coup.
7	4S	E	HK	North passed 1H so cannot have HA and SK. So don't take the spade finesse. Cash thw SA and drop the SK.
8	4H	N	S4	Strip and Throw - ruff out the clubs and spades and then play a diamond to the 9.
9	3Sx-1	S	H2	North knows that N/S have 9 spades and he should therefore bid as high as 3S in a competitive auction - Law of Total Tricks.
10	3C+1	E	HA	Cross Ruff for 10 tricks
11	4H	S	SA	High card short hand - HKQ.
12	3NT	W	HQ	In case diamonds don't provide 5 tricks - play SAK first.
13	4S+1	N	DQ	The Ruffing Club Finesse is a neat 'loser on loser' play - cash CA and later run CQ discarding a diamond on it.
14	4H	E	SK	Cash DAK then trump to A discard spade loser on DQ. Do not cash second top heart - play club instead.
15	3NT	S	S7	Rise with SQ at trick one and keep East off lead. Hopefully West tries to get East in with a club.
16	3NT	W	H7	Because we are going to be finessing clubs into South (the dangerous opponent) we can make the contract by ducking the heart lead.
17	1NTx-3	S	H3	If South makes a 1NT overcall, West will score extremely well if he remembers to double.
18	2Dx-3	W	S3	If West makes a 2D overcall, North will get his money back if he remembers to double. If North is playing 'negative' doubles then he has to pass and now South has to 'double' and North will leave it in.