

Sligo and Friends - Defence Night - Wed 25th May 2022

Board	Contract	By	Lead	Topic of the hand
1	4S-1	N	DA	Declarer can postpone the heart finesse and make the contract by endplaying East on the third round of clubs but East can avoid the endplay by dumping his CQ and CJ under declarer's CAK.
2	4H-1	E	SA or club	It is often a good idea to attack an entryless suit in dummy by leading it. If N/S leads 2 rounds of clubs then dummy will be dealt.
3	4S-1	S	CA	West can hold declarer to 9 tricks by playing 4 rounds of clubs - as long as East ruffs the 4th club with his S8 - now West's S9 becomes the 4th trick for the defence.
4	4S-2	W	HA	South should play HQ on North's HA lead to tell North that he holds the HQJ inviting North to underlead his HK at trick 2 if would prefer South to be on lead for trick 3. South will easily find the killing diamond switch at trick 3.
5	4S-1	N	HA	With Trump length a defender should lead his longest suit (not his shortest) -the idea being to keep leading this long suit so as to force declarer to ruff in his hand and eventually have less trumps than North.
6	3NT-1	E	S5	North knows that South cannot have any entry to his spade suit so North should play SJ at trick 1 hoping to force out declarer's K.
7	3NT-1	S	S4	E/W play 3 rounds of spades to set up West's spade suit but West's only entry is DJ. East can make sure that West gets in with his DJ by discarding his DA on the third round of spades.
8	3NT-1	W	S5	South must save partner's entry by rising with his CK on the first round of clubs. This will be harder for South if declarer cunningly arranges to lead the first round of clubs from dummy!
9	4H=	N	KC	Declarer has to decide whether to use his SA to take the heart finesse or the diamond finesse. If East wins first round of trumps with the HQ then declarer cannot go wrong. Instead East should tempt declarer to waste dummy's entry on the heart finesse rather than the diamond finesse by winning with HA instead of HQ on the first round of trumps.
10	3NT-1	W	SJ	North can kill the diamond suit by rising with his DQ on the first round of the suit.
11	4H-1	S	DJ	East can win second round of trumps and lock declarer in dummy with a diamond. Now he gets a diamond ruff for himself.
12	3NT-2	W		Some Souths will get 3 opportunities to jettison their CK to create CJ as an entry for partner's hearts but how many will take it? If South does not dump his CK then declarer can make the contract by leading a club from dummy and allowing South's CK to hold the trick.

13	4S-1	N		When you have 4 or more trumps it pays to keep playing your longest suit i.e. continue with diamonds to force declarer to ruff - then win the third round of trumps with SA and then play another diamond to defeat declarer.
14	4S-1	E		Don't play HA on small lead
15	3S-1	S		refuse to over-ruff
16	4S-1	W	HA	False card by looking for heart ruff - hoping declarer ruffs high with SQ
17	6S-1	N	HQ	Don't win S8 or CQ
18	4S-1	E	C2	kill dummy's entryless suit by leading it