

Sligo and Friends - Intermediate Pairs Championship 12th May 2022

Board	Contract	By	Lead	Topic of the hand
1	6S	N	HK	We can organise to throw East in at the end with his HQ.
2	6C	E	DJ	We can endplay South near the end by leading a heart to the 10.
3	4H	E	SA	South can't have DQ after opening 1NT and showing up with 13 points. So play North for DQ.
4	4H	S	SK	West must have DQ - so don't finesse - and in defence West needs to avoid leading a third spade.
5	4H	W	SK	North must have DQ so take a 'Backward' D finesse by leading the DJ and then finessing the 9 on the way back.
6	4S	S	d or HJ	East must have HK - so do not take heart finesse.
7	4H	S	SA	If West did not overcall then for sure West does not have CK in addition to AK to five spades.
8	4S	E	d or H	Diamond lead might be a singleton - don't be tempted to finesse diamond at trick 1
9	4H	S	d	trump safety play - HK and then a heart to the 8 in dummy.
10	4S-1	E	HK	North should see the winning defence - he can overtake HK at trick 1 and cash his singleton DA and now return a heart to South's Q and get a diamond ruff in return.
11	4S-1	S	CJ	Forcing defence. If the defence keep playing clubs at every opportunity and forcing declarer to ruff in his hand they will defeat the contract.
12	4S-1	W	H	If North plays a fourth round of hearts when in with ace of trumps then South can ruff with his S10 and promote North's SJ to the setting trick.
13	4S-1	N	CA	When dummy comes down, East should know that West is void in diamonds.
14	4S-1	E	HA	As long as North gives a discouraging 'Attitude' signal at trick 1, and as long as South notices it - South will know not to cash his HK and now declarer loses 3 hearts and DA.
15	3S-1	S	DA	West leads DA, then DK then D9 - a Suit Preference lead asking East to return a heart (the highest suit outside of trumps) in order to get another diamond ruff.
16	4S-1	W	HQ	South gives diamond signal on second round of trumps so North can confidently find the diamond switch from DKx
17	3NT-1	N	HK	West gives East a count signal so that East wins second round of diamonds.
18	3NT	E	SK	Hold up SA