

Sligo and Friends - Monday 30th May 2022

Board	Contract	By	Lead	Topic of the hand
1	5S	N	DA	A slam to avoid - we don't look for aces when we have a small doubleton in our hand - instead we cue bid showing the suits where we have an ace. Of course some will escape the killing diamond lead and make 12 tricks.
2	7NT	S	H6	South opens 1NT and North simply asks for aces with 4C and now he can count 13 top tricks. 7NT is safer just in case there are any nasty ruffs lurking in 7H.
3	6C	N	SQ	South opens 3NT showing 7 solid club tricks and North should be able to count 5 more making 12 tricks so he bids 6C.
4	7S	W	S6	A good hand for RKCB as it will allow West to learn about the HA, SQ and DK in the East hand.
5	3NT	W	SQ	North opens 1S and East overcalls 3NT showing 7 solid tricks in clubs but no stopper in spades. West has the spade stopper so he bids 3NT.
6	7S	E	S6	The key to bidding this 'Grand' is finding out about the diamond void in the West hand. It is best to let the strong hand do the asking for aces and now maybe West will have a way to show his void.
7	7S	S	H10	Declarer has an easy 12 tricks and he can make 13 by ruffing 2 diamonds in hand (i.e. a tactic known as Dummy Reversal).
8	6H	W	DJ	Not an easy hand to play - the technique used here is called a 'partial elimination'. Declarer plays two top trumps and then sets about cashing his diamonds and ruffing out the clubs and then cashing his two top spades - now when exits on a trump - South will be endplayed.
9	6S	N	H2	Another hand where making 12 tricks will score well even if you are not in slam. You can lead twice towards the CKQ and then when you ruff 2 diamonds in hand the DK falls promoting your DQ to your 12 trick.
10	4H-1	S	SQ	As long as West does not lead a diamond, 4H will drift one down.
11				It looks like both sides can make 7 tricks - so both sides would be well advised not to bid to the 3 level
12				The points are 19-21 so again this another hand where players need to learn to be cautious when you have mis-fitting hands.
13				Another hand where need to be cue-bidding and showing our aces rather than asking for aces and this will allow N/S learn about the lack of control in the heart suit.
14				N/S need to bid on this board if they are to score well but any North who decides to pass in 4th seat will have made the correct long-term decision - it's just that it's wrong tonight. C'est la vie.
15				Maybe the best result for N/S will be to pass-out? On paper N/S can make 4S by winning 5 spade tricks, 4 diamond tricks and 1 club trick - in reality they will make 8 tricks but that will be a good result if they can stay as low as 2S.
16	5S	W	HA	N/S can take the first two heart tricks if North can find a heart lead. However it might be hard for E/W to avoid slam and then it might be hard for North to find a heart lead. The way to avoid slam is for E/W to cue-bid rather than look for aces but if they do that they will certainly pinpoint the heart lead for North.
17	3D	E	D10	If West responds 1S then it will be hard for N/S to find their spade fit and as long as East does not reverse into 2H then E/W should end up in a nice safe diamond partscore.
18	6H	E	DK	12 easy tricks in hearts but only 11 in No-Trump. If East upgrades his hand to a strong two or if West upgrades his hand to 13+ then slam will be easy to reach.