

Sligo - 167th Intermediate Pairs Championship - 4/05/2023

Board	Contract	By	Lead	Topic of the hand
1	4S	N	HA	We need some means of getting to dummy's K and Q of diamonds so make sure you do not ruff the third round of hearts with that all important S2 - you need that as your means of getting to dummy after you draw trumps.
2	6H	E	CJ	To make 6H we need to finesse twice in spades and to do that we will need two entries to dummy. We can only see one i.e. HJ so we have to hope that South has H10 and if so our second entry will be the H9 - as long as we finesse on the first round of trumps. So play a heart to the 9 and finesse a spade then a heart to the J and take a second spade finesse.
3	4H	S	SK	Your only means of getting to dummy's AKQ of clubs is the H10 - you just have to hope that West has the HJ - so lead a small heart towards dummy's 10 at trick 2.
4	4S	E	DQ	Your only means of getting to dummy's AKQ of hearts is the S9 - you just have to hope that North has the S10 - so cash SA and then lead a small spade towards dummy's 9 at trick 3.
5	1NT	N	HQ	Keep HK entry to your diamonds.
6	4H	E	DK	Win trick 1 in dummy with the SK. Keep SA as re-entry to hand for second diamond ruff. We need 2 diamond ruffs and we do not the defenders to be able to get in and return a second trump before we have our 2 diamond ruffs in the bag.
7	3NT	S	C10	set up SK as ninth trick but you will need to keep the CA as an entry to the SK so make sure to rise with CK at trick 1.
8	3NT	W	H6	We need an entry to dummy's diamonds and that only be the HQ so make sure to win the heart lead in hand with the HA.
9	3NT	N	D10	If the defenders defend correctly they will win the second round of hearts and now if we have released our DA at trick 1 we will not be able to get to our 2 remaining heart winners in hand. The solution is not to release our DA at trick 1 and instead allow West's DK to win. Then we can win the second diamond trick in dummy and keep our DA as an entry to our good hearts.
10	4S	E	CK	To make 10 tricks we will need 3 heart tricks and that means finessing twice in hearts. Win CA and immediately take the first heart finesse.

11	3NT	S	SJ	To make 9 tricks we need 2 club tricks so we need the club finesse to work - we are in our hand for the first and only time at trick one so we need to use that opportunity to take the club finesse at trick 2.
12	4H	W	CK	We have only one entry to dummy so we can only take 1 finesse - taking the spade finesse will eliminate a spade loser while taking a trump finesse might not get rid of a heart loser - so we take spade finesse not the trump finesse.
13	3NT	S	H5	We need to finesse the diamonds 3 times so we need to use the club suit as our 3 entries to dummy i.e. get the CA, CJ and C8 out of our hand early on so that dummy's C3 becomes an entry on the 4th round of the suit.
14	3NT+2	E	S10	Keep SQ in dummy and dump SK under SA if it appears the SQ is our only entry to dummy to be able to take the club finesse.
15	7C	S	D3	Run SQ from dummy for a finesse. Unblock SJ under SQ if SQ not covered - 2 finesses (one in spades and the other in hearts) to take and only one entry available. So we will need S10 in dummy as a later entry to take the heart finesse.
16	6Sx	N	CQ	Cash the CA and CK and dump the DA. Now cash your DK, DQ and DJ dumping 3 losing hearts, before coming to hand with a diamond or club ruff to draw trumps.
17	3NT	S	HJ	we have 7 club tricks and only need 2 heart tricks to make our contract so overtake HK with HA at trick 1 and cash HQ.
18	3NT	W	S2	We need an entry to dummy after we play CK to the CA and knockout the CQ. So we must make sure to win SK in hand trick 1 - keep 2 small spades.