

09- 2024 – Interesting Times

Last week, I played in the Gold Coast Congress, and it was lots of fun, and well run. Here is an interesting Hand

Dealer South Nil Vul

	NORTH	
	75	
	9763	
	42	
	Q10753	
WEST		EAST
42		K106
AQJ10852		K
6		AKQ1087
864		AJ2
	SOUTH	
	AQJ983	
	4	
	J953	
	K9	

The bidding goes:

South	West	North	East
2D (1)	2H (2)	P	3D (3)
P	4H (4)	P	4NT (5)
P	5H (6)	P	??? (7)

- (1) Multi Two, showing either a strong balanced Hand 20+ Points, or a weak Major (a great disruptive bid!)
- (2) Just an overcall – no need to jump
- (3) Diamond Suit, 1 round force
- (4) I like the jump as it shows a very good, long suit. (West knows East must be strong, as North Passed)
- (5) RKCB
- (6) 1 or 4 Key Cards (in Hearts) – obviously 1 Key Card
- (7) What should East bid? 6H by West may go off if a Spade is led (unless West has SA, SQ or 1 or 0 Spades). With a 4-loser Hand, and Partner promising a good Heart suit – probably 6 winners with the missing HK with East, 6NT is best – a Spade lead comes up to the East Hand

CONTRACT

6NT by East

THE LEAD

What should South lead?

If South leads SA, East has 12 Tricks on top. If it is a low Spade or a Diamond, East has 13 Tricks

Leading away from CK looks suicidal – if East has CA and CQ, it gifts a Trick

So, only H4 remains (leading through Dummy's Heart strength)

THE PLAY

[Note: HK must always be overtaken by HA to access Dummy's Hearts]

On H4, Declarer plays HA, followed by 6 more Hearts. South is hopelessly squeezed, needing to keep SA, SQ, all 4 Diamonds and CK

[Had South led CK, Declarer ducks, then has 12 Tricks on any subsequent lead. Had South led C9, South is squeezed as above]

MORAL OF THE STORY

This Hand was played multiple times at the Congress. 4H was the most common contract. The Multi Two opening crowded the bidding space, and EW did not find their best Contract – 6NT by East

4H by West lost 2 or 3 Tricks on S7 lead through SK. After winning SA, SQ, another Spade, roughed *low* by West, over-ruffed by North for 10 Tricks (East needs to ruff with H10, then play a small Heart to HK, then DA, D7 roughed, draw Trumps, over to CA and run the Diamonds, for 11 Tricks)

Ian Morison

[Did you know that someone born on 29 Feb has a life expectancy of circa 340 years, will not start school for 20 years after birth, and will have their 21st party 84 years after birth?]

29 February 2024