

05- 2024 – Can you make 6C?

Dealer S, All Vul

Can you find a way to make 6C on this Hand? [I struggled for a long time to see it]

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | NORTH | | |
| | KJ | | |
| | J43 | | |
| | A965 | | |
| | J954 | | |
| | | EAST | |
| WEST | | Q10965 | |
| 87432 | | Q7 | |
| K1085 | | 872 | |
| K103 | | 832 | |
| 10 | | | |
| | SOUTH | | |
| | A | | |
| | A962 | | |
| | QJ4 | | |
| | AKQ76 | | |
| South | West | North | East |
| 2C | P | 2NT (1) | P |
| 3C (2) | P | 4C (3) | P |
| 4NT (4) | P | 5C (5) | P |
| 6C | P | P | P |

- (1) 10+ Points, any shape
- (2) Suit
- (3) Support, at least 3 Clubs
- (4) RKCB
- (5) 0 or 3 Key Cards

CONTRACT

6C by South

THE LEAD

S3

THE PLAY

You have potential losers in Hearts and Diamonds. Key cards you are missing are HK, HQ and DK and D10. You can only lose 1 Trick, or down you go

You need DK with West to have any hope, so you play with this in mind

Win SA

Play C6 to CJ (noting West plays C10)

Play SK from Dummy, throwing a Diamond (YES, *not* a heart – this is the key play to make 6C)

Play a Club to Hand, winning with CQ (noting the 3-1 break)

Play DJ – West will surely cover with DK* as this promotes D10, take with DA

Play a Diamond to DQ

Play C7, overtaking with C9 (drawing last Trump with East)

Ruff a Diamond to Hand

Play HA and then a low H – If West covers with HK, play low and HQ crashes, promoting HJ and you make 6C

If West does not cover, duck in Dummy, West wins HQ but only has Spades left to allow you to discard a Heart in hand, ruff in Dummy, play your best Diamond in Dummy, throwing another Heart in Hand, and you make 6C

* if West does not cover, play DQ next, same result

MORAL OF THE STORY

It is very hard to see how to make this Hand. The apparent discard of a Heart with the SK does not work – only by discarding a Diamond do you avoid the Diamond loser

At the Table, you have about 3 to 4 minutes to see this and make your 6C. I did not see this until looking at it later, for quite some time

Ian Morison

[Suffering during our annual 'Dry February']

2 February 2024