

13- 2024 – More Card Play Technique

How do you make 5D on this Hand (3NT is a better Contract, with 9 Tricks on top, plus chances for more Tricks)? Still, 5D is the Contract

Dealer S, NS Vul

	NORTH	
	K106543	
	QJ76	
	84	
	K	
WEST		EAST
A		QJ87
A1032		98
AQ9652		K107
92		A1075
	SOUTH	
	92	
	K54	
	J3	
	QJ8643	

The bidding went:

South	West	North	East
P	1D	2S (1)	3D (2)
P	3H	P	4D (3)
P	5D		

- (1) Weak jump overcall
- (2) Without Heart cover, 2NT should not be bid
- (3) With good Spade cover sitting over North, East should now bid 3NT

CONTRACT

5D by West

THE PLAY

North led S5, around to SA

West has 3 potential Heart losers and 1 Club. So, ruffing in Dummy is important, as are the SQ and SJ

You note North has 6+ Spades from the bidding

Play DA, then a small Diamond to DK. You note Trumps are drawn (phew!)

Play SQ, throwing C9 (1 of your 4 potential losers – a small Heart also works). North wins with SK and leads HQ, win with HA, play another Heart. North or South win, but you now can Ruff a Heart in Dummy and play SJ throwing the other.

5D made

MORAL OF THE STORY

Stop and think at Trick 1 – you need to find the best line of play. You must deal with your 3 Heart losers and your 1 Club loser. Ruffing and setting up a Spade winner are the answer

Happy Easter

Ian Morison

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