

16 - 2023 – Take Care Leading

You are North, on lead this hand:

Q93
95432
K1094
9

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
1NT(1)	P	2H (2)	P
2S	P	3C (3)	P
3H (4)	P	4NT	P
5H (5)	P	6NT	P
P	P		

The bidding was explained as follows:

- (1) = 15-17, no 5 Card Major
- (2) = Transfer to Spades
- (3) = Club Suit
- (4) = Heart Suit
- (5) = 2 Aces (simple Blackwood)

YOUR LEAD

It is easy against a slam to lose interest as Defenders. But your objective should be to put them down

So, what do you lead?

You must listen to the bidding and analyse it. West is balanced, but with 4 Hearts. East's bidding is a bit odd, but it looks like 5-5 in Spades and Clubs. They very likely have 30 – 35 Points between the 2 Hands, Partner probably has 0-3 points

Ask yourself – where could I get 2 Tricks from my 5 Points? DK looks a good chance, SQ less likely as East has Spades and it may be finessed. Trick 2 could come from a Heart

Start with what you cannot lead. Do not lead away from DK. Do not lead a Spade

So, it comes down to a Heart or C9. I would lead H3, hoping Partner has some of the missing Hearts and maybe a Club Honour if Clubs are finessed through East

THE HANDS

Q93
95432
K1094
9

1074
AKQ7
AQ76
54

AKJ65
8
82
AKJ72

82
J106
J53
Q10863

Declarer must go down on a Heart lead, or C9, or (by chance) a Spade

During the play, North must count the Hearts and note H9 becomes best after Declarer has run them and partner is forced to play HJ and H10. You must keep DK, D10 and H9 as your last 3 cards. South must keep Clubs to guard the CQ

MORAL OF THE STORY

Putting Declarer down in a slam requires patience and counting the cards. It is very easy to gift the Slam to your opponents by a poor lead or throwing key cards

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Bridge lover
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