

## 02 - 2023 – Card Play

### Dealer North, NS Vul

You have ended up in **6NT by North** in this hand (a tad optimistic, but that is history, the contract now needs to be made)

	K	
	A92	
	KJ8432	
	K97	
10652		J87
J1065		K8
105		A76
1062		Q8543
	AQ943	
	Q743	
	Q9	
	AJ	

You receive the C3 lead, and play the CJ from table which holds

You are now in Dummy. **Plan the play**

#### Firstly, count your winners

You now have 3C, 5D, 1H and 3S winners – that's 12

#### Secondly, look what could go wrong

A common mistake is to set up your best suit (Diamonds) first

But if East wins, and leads a second Club to your Ace, you cannot get to Hand to play SK and get back to Dummy later

#### The Answer

After winning the Club lead, you must play a Spade to the King straight away

*Then* you set up Diamonds

When East wins DA, East can lead anything – if it is a Club, win Ace in Dummy, play SA and SQ, then cross to hand to with HA and run your Diamonds and CK. Similarly, if a Spade is returned by East

If a Heart is led (a brave decision by East to lead away from K8 of Hearts, through Dummy's HQ). But there is no problem here. Rise with HQ, then cash your winners in Dummy, then cross to your Hand

#### Moral of the Story

Many contracts rely on timing – this is one of them. It was essential to play to SK early, before your CA was knocked out, destroying your communication

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**Ian Morison**

Bridge lover

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