

20 - 2023 – Card Play

You are in 6H by South, with H4 led. How do you play it?

Dealer S, All Vul

North

7
KJ10632
A5
10543

South

KJ98
AQ9
KJ8
AKQ

HOW DO YOU PLAY IT?

First, count your winners. – 6 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and 3 Clubs = 11. How do you make an extra trick?

- If Trumps break 2-2, it is easy – the C10 is ruffed in Dummy. If Trumps don't break, then in running the Clubs, you risk being ruffed
- After drawing Trumps, you could lead up to SK from Dummy. If East has SA, then you make. If West has it, you can later fall back on the Diamond finesse (cash DA first in case West has singleton DQ). The chances of one of the finesses working is about 75%
- After drawing Trumps, cash DA (in case West has DQ singleton) and finesse DJ. This is about 50%

THE FULL HANDS

7
KJ10632
A5
10543

Q1043
874
Q6
9876

A652
5
1097432
J2

KJ98
AQ9
KJ8
AKQ

Is there is another better line to take?

- Draw Trumps (here they break 3-1). Run the Clubs hoping CJ falls singleton or doubleton or the Clubs break 3:3
- If they don't break, you fall back on the DJ finesse (you cannot do the SK finesse, as if it loses and West has the CJ, it can be cashed then as you are out of Trumps in South

This line of play is about 90%

MORAL OF THE STORY

Look for all the options in card play

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

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