

20 - 2023 – 2C Opening and Replies

As South, how do you bid this Hand, and then play it?

Dealer N, Nil Vul

	J62	
	A3	
	KQJ1043	
	93	
KQ103		98754
J102		65
9762		A85
Q10		754
	A	
	KQ9874	
	-	
	AKJ862	

Firstly, you have just 2 losers, so you must be in at least game, very likely slam. You are looking for either HA or CQ with Partner for slam

The Bidding:

N	E	S	W
P (1)	P	2C (2)	P
2NT (3)	P	3H (4)	P
3NT (5)	P	6C (6)	P
6H (7)			

The bidding is explained as follows:

- (1) I would have opened 1D, but North preferred to pass
- (2) Strong Hand, 20+ Points, or 3 or less losers. Game force
- (3) 10+ Points (with the prior Pass, North can only have 10 or 11 Points)
- (4) Heart suit
- (5) Showing cover in all suits, less than 3 Hearts (not sure about that Club cover....!)
- (6) Strong 2 Suiter – make your pick Partner – leave 6C or bid 6H
- (7) Converts to 6H, a good bid

The Play:

D2 is led.

You put up DK, covered by DA, ruffed by you. Then what do you do?

You need Hearts to break 3:2 or 5:0 with East or you are down. Clubs need to break 3:2 as well to get you home

Here Declarer played a heart to the Ace in Dummy, noting each side followed suit, and lead C9, inserting CJ. CQ won the trick. SK was returned, Declarer won it, drew trumps and ran the Clubs to make the Slam

At other tables, Declarer drew Trumps and then led CA and CK. As CQ was doubleton, 13 Tricks were made

Both lines of play are sensible

MORAL OF THE STORY

This Hand required careful but strong bidding by South and North, and careful card play

North made the right choice in converting to 6H, a better score even though 6C also makes

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

7 July 2023