

05 - 2023 – Escape Mechanism

Dealer South Both Vul

	K52	
	K54	
	KQJ	
	AJ96	
A974		1086
9762		A1083
Q432		1086
5		842
	QJ3	
	QJ	
	A95	
	KQ1073	

The Bidding

South opens the bidding with 1NT (East West Pass throughout)

North quickly gets 6NT on his mind, with 17 Points. North bids 4NT, asking for Aces

South replies 5D – 1 or 4

North has 1 Ace, so knows South can only have 1 Ace. Missing 2 Aces, North wants to sign off in 5NT

If North bids 5NT, South will bid 6D – 1 King. That will be too high

What should North bid?

You need an escape mechanism

The best I know is a bid by North of the next lowest unbid suit (OR if the opponents have bid – unlikely - their suit) tells partner: Bid 5NT

Moral of the Story

Bridge is full of quirks – missing 2 Aces with a combined 32 Points is rare and unlucky. But it can happen – having an escape mechanism answers this dilemma

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

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