

# 24- 2024 – Shorter Trumps

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Can you make 6S here?

**Dealer S, Both Vul**

|  |              |             |              |             |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|  | <b>NORTH</b> |             |              |             |
|  | KQ87         |             |              |             |
|  | AQ1076       |             |              |             |
|  | -            |             |              |             |
|  | K1072        |             |              |             |
|  | <b>WEST</b>  | <b>EAST</b> |              |             |
|  | -            | J9432       |              |             |
|  | J52          | 983         |              |             |
|  | AQJ85        | 1032        |              |             |
|  | QJ98         | 53          |              |             |
|  | <b>SOUTH</b> |             |              |             |
|  | A1065        |             |              |             |
|  | K4           |             |              |             |
|  | K976         |             |              |             |
|  | A64          |             |              |             |
|  | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | <b>West</b> |
|  | 1H           | P           | 1S           | P (1)       |
|  | 3S           | P           | 4NT (2)      | P           |
|  | 5S (3)       | P           | 6S           | P           |

(1) West could have bid 2D; maybe the Vulnerability scared him off?

(2) RKCB (Spades agreed)

(3) 2 Key Cards plus SQ

## THE PLAY

West led DA, Declarer surveyed Dummy and it looked like 6S would have little trouble making

[Should West have led DA? Normally, it is good to cash an Ace against a Slam suit contract (less desirable against a Slam NT contract). But with DA and DQ, I would not do so]

Declarer Ruffs in Dummy, then plays SK. Oh dear, Spades break 5-0 – East has a certain Spade winner

*How should Declarer now play?*

The key card for Declarer is DK. When West gets in with his 5<sup>th</sup> Spade, DK acts as a block against Diamonds being run

Declarer now plays SQ, followed by S8, finessing against East, and then SA. NS have no more Spades, East has SJ. Declarer notes West has thrown 2 D, 1 H and 1 C, as Trumps are played

Declarer now plays HK and H4 to Dummy (HJ falls), running the Hearts (if East Trumps, then whatever is returned, Declarer wins and has the rest of the Tricks)

This was the 4-card ending when Declarer played the last Heart:

|             |                         |             |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|             | <b>NORTH</b>            |             |
|             | -                       |             |
|             | 6 (Declarer plays this) |             |
|             | -                       |             |
|             | K107                    |             |
| <b>WEST</b> |                         | <b>EAST</b> |
| -           |                         | J           |
| -           |                         | -           |
| Q           |                         | 32          |
| QJ9         |                         | 3           |
|             | <b>SOUTH</b>            |             |
|             | -                       |             |
|             | -                       |             |
|             | K                       |             |
|             | A64                     |             |

It does not matter when East takes the SJ, as Declarer is in control after, playing Clubs before the DK 6S made

### **MORAL OF THE STORY**

It seems counter-intuitive to draw all the Trumps, leaving East with the 13<sup>th</sup> Trump, and control. But, given DK is a block against Diamonds being run, it is the correct approach

If West bares the QJ of Clubs, keeping QJ of Diamonds, it does not help, as Declarer plays Clubs (C10 being promoted by fall of CQ and CJ under CK and CA

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