

Answer Board 5 Puzzle

Board: 5	♠KT75
Dealer: N	♥7542
Vul: NS	♦KT8
	♣A2
♠J9842	♠63
♥T	♥KQ6
♦	♦Q9642
♣KQJ9765	♣T84
	♠AQ
	♥AJ983
	♦AJ753
	♣3

Answer – 4H by South making 6H

The Bidding:

1. North with 10 pts and East with 7 pts pass
2. South with 16 pts and two 5 card suits calls 1H (the highest ranked suit)
3. West, with 7 clubs, a void and a singleton, makes a pre-emptive call of 3C
4. North can support South and calls 3H
5. East passes and South calls 4H
6. All pass (but see sacrifice bids below)

The Play: - During the club session most people called 4H and most made 4H. One person (me!) made the possible 6H. To make 6H you need to play the following way:

- West leads the King of Clubs.
- When dummy lays their hand down you can see that your best off suit is Diamonds and that you are missing the King and Queen of Hearts, and have 9 Hearts in total. Dummy takes the first trick with the Ace of Clubs
- You need to lead Hearts from Dummy. So lead the two of Hearts from Dummy. If East plays the King or Queen then take the trick with the Ace. But they will most likely play the six. As you are always going to lose one Heart trick then try and finesse with the Jack. This is successful.
- Now you need to feed back to the Dummy. Play the Ace of Spades and then the Queen of Spades. Overtake the Queen with the King in Dummy.
- Lead another small heart from Dummy, East plays the King or the Queen and South takes the trick with the Ace
- Lead a small Heart which East will take with the remaining King or Queen. You do this so that East doesn't interfere with the playing of Diamonds (you don't realise that they have 5 diamonds).
- East leads a Spade for their partner.
- South trumps the trick and leads the three of Diamonds and takes the trick in Dummy with the King
- Lead the Ten of Diamonds from Dummy. East will probably play away and South will play the Five of Diamonds.
- Lead the Eight of Diamonds from Dummy, which South takes (either with the Jack or Ace). South can then win the fourth Diamond trick before playing the fifth Diamond which Dummy can trump.
- South can declare with the final two Hearts in play

Making a Sacrifice Bid

There is the opportunity for West to make a Sacrifice Bid as North/South are Vulnerable and East/West are Not Vulnerable. Obviously North/South have strong Hearts and therefore will probably make a score of 620. West can make a Sacrifice Bid of 5 Clubs, knowing that they will go down but they will probably lose fewer points than 620.

East/West can get 2 Clubs and so will go down by three tricks. But, even if doubled, this is only 500 pts, less than the 620 or more. Note than if East/West were Vulnerable then three tricks down is 800 pts.

One pair in the club session did this and were top for East/West.

Puzzle Board 6

Board: 6	♠QJ8643
Dealer: E	♥K8
Vul: EW	♦A8
	♣KQJ
♠K5	♠AT2
♥97	♥T52
♦J7653	♦Q42
♣8642	♣T953
	♠97
	♥AQJ643
	♦KT9
	♣A7

Questions:

1. What is the best bid?
2. From which hand?

Hopefully I will have the answer to you tomorrow.