

# 17- 2024 – Extreme Shape

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Here is an interesting Hand:

Dealer W, EW Vul

<b>NORTH</b>	
AQ986543	
K10873	
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-	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
J10	K
A94	62
10976	AK53
A954	KQ10762
<b>SOUTH</b>	
72	
QJ5	
QJ842	
J83	

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
P	1S (1)	X (2)	1NT (3)
P (4)	4S (5)	P (6)	P
P (6)			

- (1) You don't often see a 8-5-0-0 Hand! Key cards North is missing are SK, SJ, S10, and HA, HQ and HJ. North can expect Partner to have a few of these, so 4S is a minimum Contract, and North is looking for 6S (or 6H if South responds 2H – must have a 5-Card suit). [Another option is to open 2C, but I don't favour that]
- (2) I don't like the Double – it suggests Hearts – I would simply bid 2C. [You could also push the boundaries a bit and bid 2NT showing the Minors, even though you are 6:4 in the Minors]
- (3) I like this over the Double – it tells Partner 'I have fewer than 3 Spades, a Heart stopper and some Points (6-9). It is not quite strong enough for a Redouble (10+ Points)
- (4) I think West should Double instead of Passing – he knows Partner has 12+ Points. He does not have a suit to bid, and even though it shows 10+ Points, this is a good 9 Points

(5) Given the points East is showing, 6S looks unlikely with East sitting over North, so a jump to 4S is warranted

(6) At a few Tables, including ours, East Doubled, and at some Tables West Doubled

### **THE PLAY**

East led DK, Ruffed by North

North knows East has most of the missing Points, so should simply play SA. Bingo, SK falls. Then play SQ, then concede a Heart. 12 Tricks made

### **MORAL OF THE STORY**

You should not focus on Points in the North hand, but rather Losers. No matter what, you should be in 4 Spades (unless partner bids Hearts, then 4H)

Bidding 6S (or 6H) is too hard after the Double by East, given East sits over North. There may be 2+ Losers

**Ian Morison**

26 April 2024