

20- 2024 – Cash out or Go for Extra Tricks?

Here you have a chance to make extra Tricks. Should you risk the Contract and go for it?

Dealer E, Nil Vul

NORTH	
J74	
Q104	
KQ7	
A984	
WEST	EAST
AK1062	53
J75	9632
95	J864
J76	Q53
SOUTH	
Q98	
AK8	
A1032	
K102	

The Bidding was:

East	South	West	North
P	1NT	P	3NT
P	P	P	

THE PLAY

West played off SA SK and then S2, SQ winning, East discarding H2

Your duty in Pairs is always to make more Tricks. In IMPs scoring, you should never risk your Contract

Counting the Cards, you know West has 5 Spades, and East has shown 2 Spades and 1 Heart

Diamonds are your best bet for extra Tricks. If Hearts break badly, East is very likely to have the longer suit (as West has longer spades). So, you play off all your Hearts, everyone following

You now know West has 5 spades and 3 Hearts, leaving 5 unknown Cards. East has shown 2 Spades and 4 Hearts, leaving 7 unknown Cards

You hope DJ is Doubleton, so you play DK and DQ. Both follow and DJ does not appear

You now know West has 5 spades, 3 Hearts and 2 Diamonds (3 Cards unknown), East 2 Spades, 4 Hearts and 2 Diamonds (5 Cards unknown). You lead D7 from Dummy, hoping East has to play DJ. No luck

You finesse with D10 as the odds are that East has 4 Diamonds. Phew, it makes. West throws a Club (a Spade would have been better, protecting CJ). You play DA, and again West throws a Club. You now know West has 2 Spades left and 1 Club. So, you cross to CA (West playing CJ), and take the marked Club finesse against East's CQ

11 Tricks, and a screaming top

MORAL OF THE STORY

You took risks – if West had 3 Diamonds to DJ, then you would go down taking the finesse (West would cash 2 winning Spades after winning DJ)

But the odds favoured the Diamond finesse against East. Over to you decide if that risk is acceptable to you and your Partner in Pairs, don't do it in IMPS scoring (Teams, Butler...).

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