

For a Future LSBC Newsletter and Corner

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Proper hand evaluation leads to a 2C not a 2NT opener.

4	6NTS=	1440	14.8
5	2♥N=	110	2.4

38.9	10.4
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The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, a table shows two bids: 4 (6NTS=) with 1440 points and 14.8, and 5 (2♥N=) with 110 points and 2.4. Below this, two yellow boxes show values 38.9 and 10.4. The main interface displays a hand with a 4♦ bid. The hand is shown for North (Robot) and South (texashen). North's hand is: ♠A985, ♥J1076, ♦AJ87, ♣8. South's hand is: ♠KQJ, ♥AK, ♦64, ♣AKJ976. A bidding log shows the following sequence: Pass, Pass, Pass, 2♦, Pass, 2♦, Pass, 2NT, Pass, 3♣, Pass, 3♦, Pass, 6NT, Pass, Pass. The interface also shows a bidding table with columns W, N, E, S and a bidding log with columns W, N, E, S.

S 2C (21 hcp + 2 for the good 6 card club suit = 23 and my points are all prime values, 2 AK combinations and a KQJ combination. Honors together are worth more than honors separately.)

N 2D (Waiting)

S 2NT (3C is a reasonable alternative, but I want to play in notrump. My clubs will be just as good there. Shows 22-24 points. I also am not interested in bidding a suit that might help the defense find a potential killing lead in diamonds)

N 3C (Stayman)

S 3D (No 4+ card major)

N 6NT (10 hcp + my 22 to 24 points = 32-34 points. A small slam usually makes on power with 33 hcp)

West leads the King of diamonds. I am certain West also has the Queen of diamonds for this lead.

Hand details:

- North (Robot):** ♠A985, ♥J1076, ♦J87, ♣8
- West (Robot):** ♠63, ♥Q9842, ♦Q, ♣10542
- East (Robot):** ♠10742, ♥53, ♦10953, ♣Q3
- South (texashen):** ♠KQJ, ♥AK, ♦6, ♣AKJ976

Trick 1: West leads ♦K, North plays ♦A, East plays ♦2, South plays ♦4.

Score: 1 - 0 (6NT South)

I win the ace.

I should go down losing a diamond and a club. I finesse the Queen of clubs and hope for a 3-3 club split to take all the tricks.

I am lucky that the club finesse works, but not lucky enough to get the 3-3 club split. When there's an even number out they usually don't split.

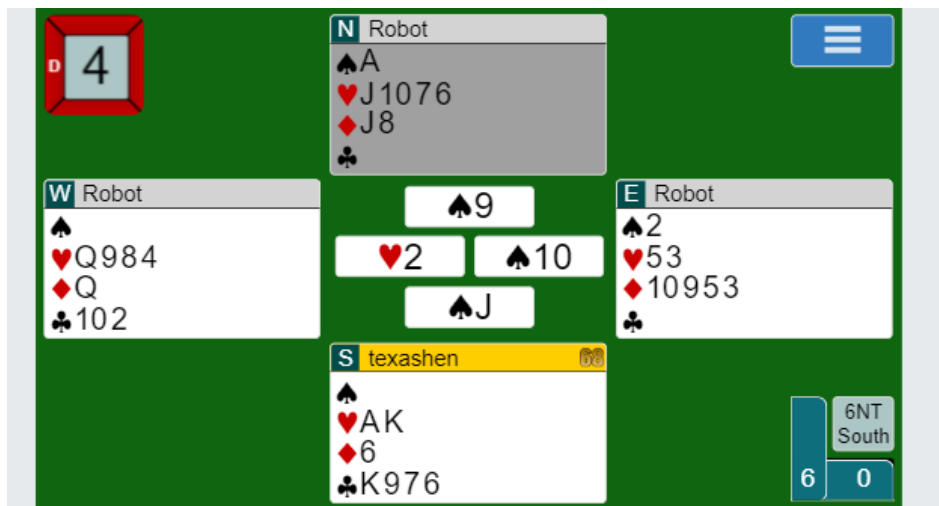
Hand details:

- North (Robot):** ♠A985, ♥J1076, ♦J8, ♣8
- West (Robot):** ♠63, ♥Q9842, ♦Q, ♣102
- East (Robot):** ♠10742, ♥53, ♦10953, ♣3
- South (texashen):** ♠KQJ, ♥AK, ♦6, ♣K976

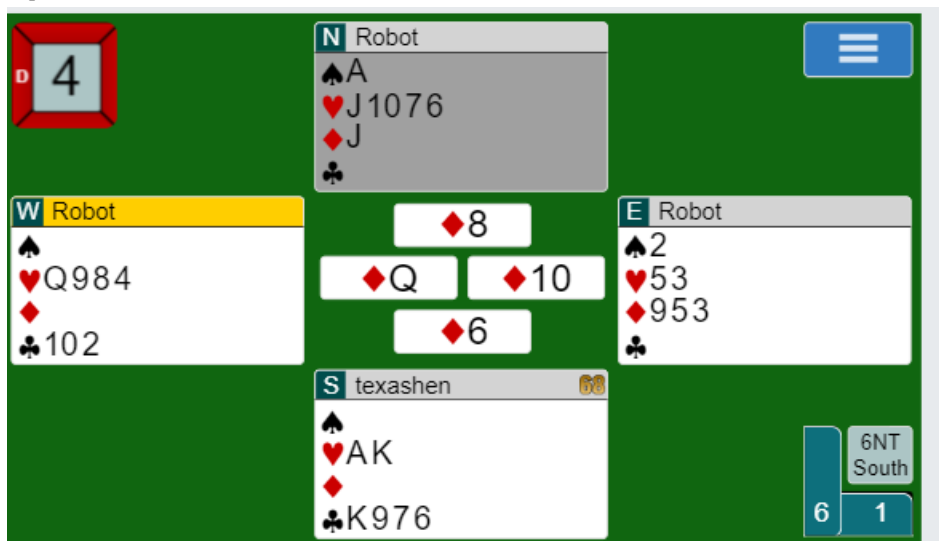
Trick 2: West leads ♦K, North plays ♦7, East plays ♣Q, South plays ♣A.

Score: 3 - 0 (6NT South)

Course with the 10 of clubs played, East could play the Queen from a Q 10 holding. But I decide to start cashing spades first to try to figure out the distribution.

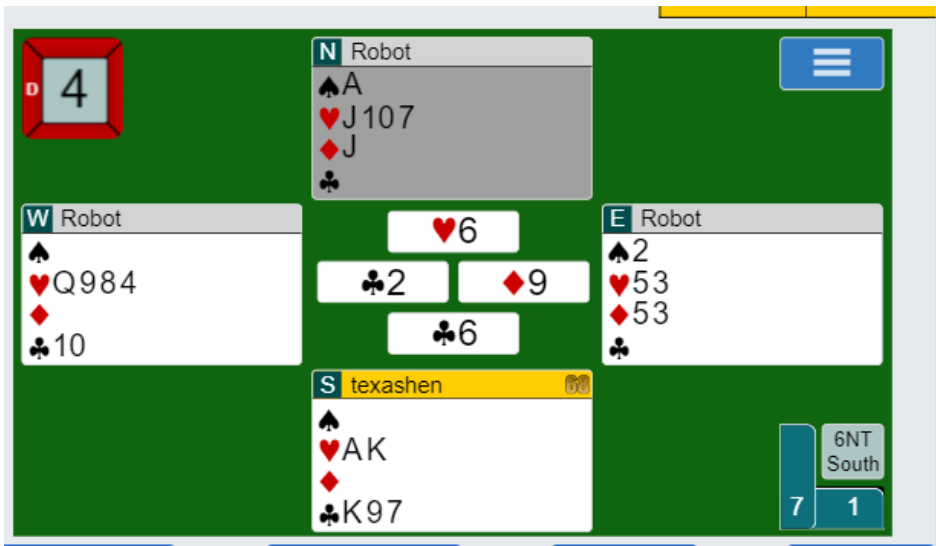


With East having 4 spades, I think it's more likely that the clubs are not splitting and West has the 10 2 left. So, I give west a chance to help me. I let West have the Queen of diamonds.



Looking at all 4 hands. it's obvious that West should play a small heart to my AK and wait for the setting club trick. But West does not know that I have the missing 4 clubs to the King as East hasn't shown out.

So, West must guess between leading club and leading away from the Queen of hearts. Like most, West leads a heart not expecting me to have started with 6 clubs for my notrump bid.



I win the 6 of clubs, and my hand is now good. Making 6NT. Defense is hard.