

For a Future LSBC Newsletter and Corner

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On freak hands it's often correct to bid what you think you can make. Defense is hard, and as Michael Berkowitz wrote: it's good to have a friend on lead.



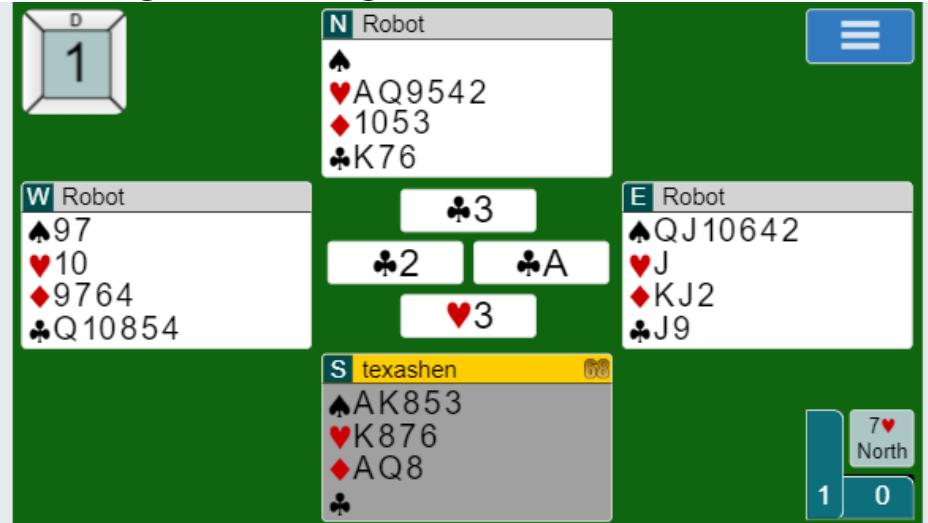
N 2H (Weak 2 bid, 6+ hearts, 5-10 points)

W 2S

S 6H (With my monster hand, I expect to set 2S but I think I can make slam. With West's spade bid, partner must be short in spades - so no spade losers. We have at least an 11 card heart fit, so it is unlikely we are missing the Ace, so no likely heart losers. If partner has the King of diamond we have no diamond losers. If East has the King of diamonds we have one diamond loser. If West has the King of diamonds, maybe we'll get lucky. No club losers. So, 6H it is.)

N 7H! (Unfortunately North gets too excited)

East makes the fortunate lead (for me of the Ace of clubs). Leading aces is often correct against a slam/grand slam contract. But not on this hand.



I ruff the ace of clubs, and now the King of clubs becomes a parking space for my 8 of diamonds. A hopeless grand slam now depends on the location of the King of diamonds. The finesse works. Making 7.

Interestingly, most were in 4H and a few of us were in 7H. Only one pair got to 6H. They asked for aces immediately. If North shows 1 ace, South can assume it's the ace of hearts and bid 6H. If North shows 2 aces, then South should just bid 6H as the grand depends on the diamond finesse. Grand slams should not be bid on a finesse. If South should have no aces then it would be best to stop at 5H as the heart ace is a sure loser and it's likely there is an eventual diamond loser.

