

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 |
|------|------|

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)

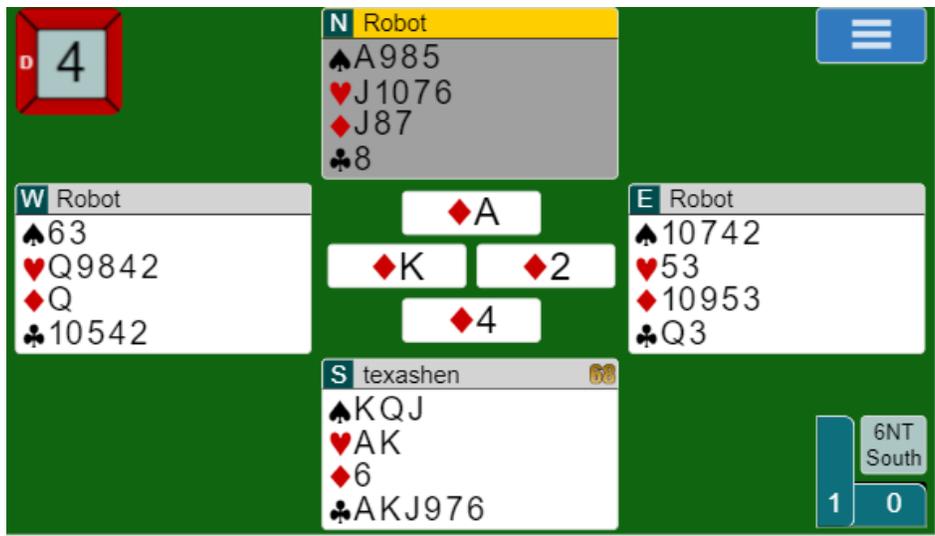
S 2NT (3C is a reasonable alternative, but I want to play in notrump. My clubs will be just as good there. Shows 22-24 points. I also am not interested in bidding a suit that might help the defense find a potential killing lead in diamonds)

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)

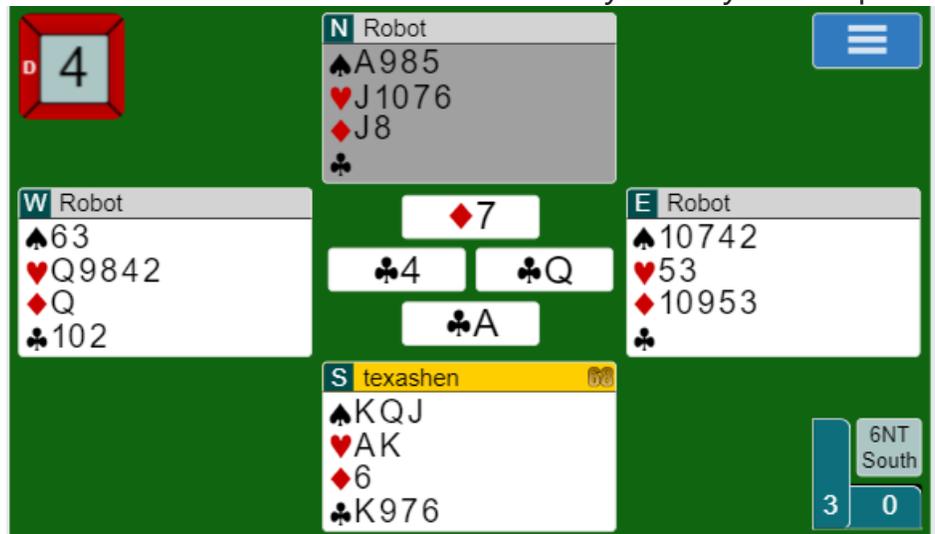
West leads the King of diamonds. I am certain West also has the Queen of diamonds for this lead.



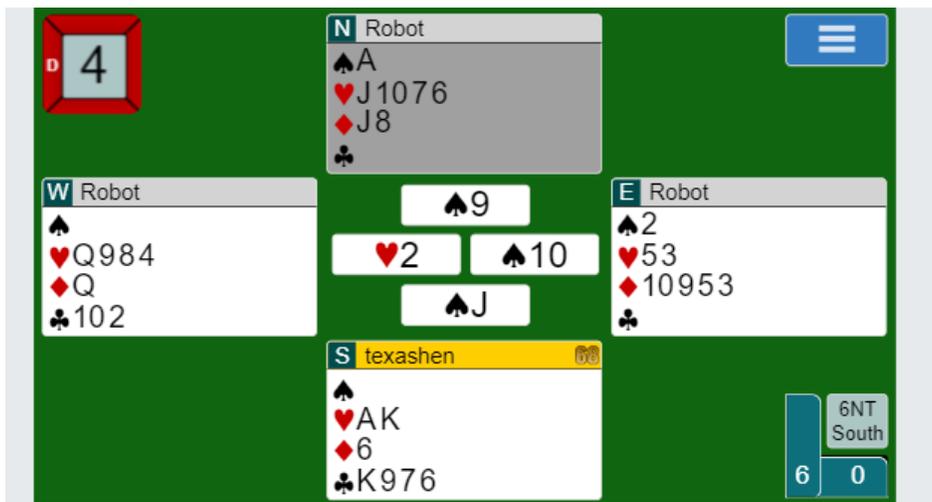
I win the ace.

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.

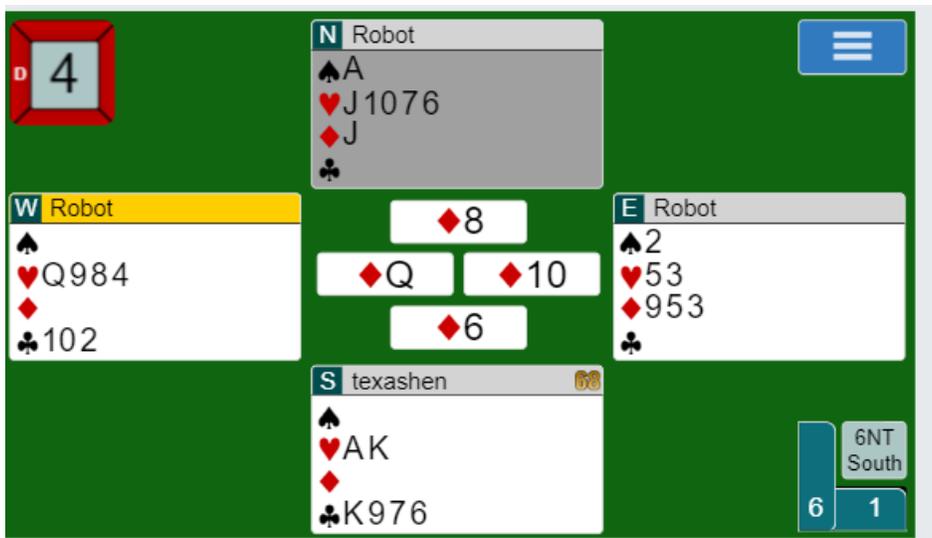
I am lucky that the club finesse works, but not lucky enough to get the 3-3 club split. When there's an even number out they usually don't split.



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.

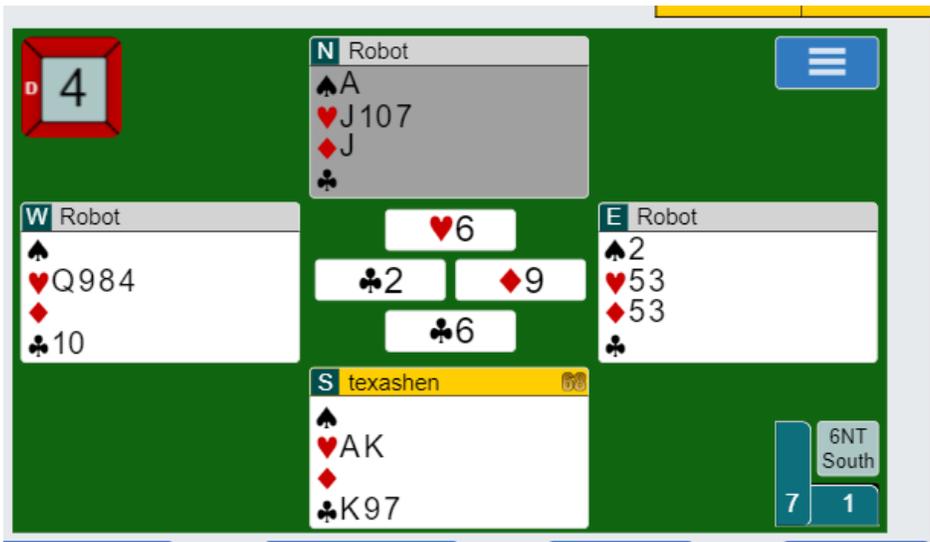


With East having 4 spades, I think it's more likely that the clubs are not splitting and West has the 10 2 left. So, I give west a chance to help me. I let West have the Queen of diamonds.



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.