

Christmas Quiz by Boris Ewart

Hand 1
Dealer N
Love All

♠KJ942
♥J98
♦32
♣843

♠1065	N	♠87
♥Q10	W	♥A76532
♦10976	E	♦J85
♣QJ109	S	♣75

♠AQ3
♥K4
♦AKQ4
♣AK62

W	N	E	S
No	No	2♥*	X
No	2♠	No	3♥
No	4♠	No	6NT

W leads ♣Q – E follows ♣7. Can you work out the full hand to make this contract? (Clue - E has no singleton and you can't make 6♠).

W has to have ♥Q10 in order to play ♥8 to the ♥K and then boldly duck ♥4 to the now stiff ♥Q. The count is then rectified to squeeze W in the minors when the rest of the ♠ are run. If W had just ♥Qx he could jettison the ♥Q under the ♥K and you then can't make the contract.

Hand 2
Dealer E
N-S Vul

♠A72
♥A
♦K96532
♣J82

♠KQ1065	N	♠9843
♥2	W	♥Q1086
♦Q108	E	♦J7
♣10974	S	♣AK3

♠J
♥KJ97543
♦A4
♣Q65

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♦	No	1♥
No	4♥	2♥*	3♥
No	4♥	X	End

W leads ♠K. Can you make this contract? (W follows ♥2 when the ♥A is played).

The sequence of play is win ♠A, ruff ♠, ♥4 to ♥A, ruff ♠, ♦A and ♦K then ♣2 towards ♣Q. If E lets ♣Q win then exit in ♣. E will be end-played to exit back with last ♠ - ruff and duck ♥ to end-play E again. If E rises with ♣K to also cash ♣A then unblock ♣Q and win ♣ return with ♣J to lead ♦ over-ruffing E as necessary then duck ♥ to end-play E.

Hand 3
Dealer S
E-W Vul

♠109843
♥QJ9832
♦-
♣K8

♠KQJ6	N	♠A752
♥K5	W	♥A6
♦A7643	E	♦-
♣A7	S	♣QJ109653

♠-
♥1074
♦KQJ109852
♣42

W	N	E	S
X	No	6♣	5♦
?			No

What is your bid?

The only winning bid is 6NT. In 6♣ S leads ♦K and N is awake enough to ruff with ♣K and return a ♠ for S to ruff. 6NT would also be right if E had:

♠A752
♥86
♦-
♣KQJ10965
as your ♥K is then protected.

Hand 4
Dealer W
Game All
IMP.

♠4
♥A62
♦A108752
♣1063

♠KQJ85	N	♠10743
♥95	W	♥KQJ7
♦J94	E	♦3
♣AQ7	S	♣J954

♠A96
♥10843
♦KQ4
♣K82

W	N	E	S
2♦*	2♠	No	2NT
No	3NT	End	

You decide to lead ♠4 taken by ♣A. E follows ♣4 and S ♣8. S plays ♦4 next to E ♦3 and S ♦Q. How do you defend? S either has the diagram hand or:

♠A96
♥K843
♦KQ4
♣982

With the latter he either risks the ♣Q or plays low from dummy and hopes the ♥ switch does not happen. He is trying to give the impression that E has encouraged ♣ by hiding the ♣2. Don't be fooled. Win the ♦A and lead ♥A and another ♥.

Hand 5
Dealer N
N-S Vul

♠1064
♥Q1083
♦J7
♣KJ85

♠KQ85	N	♠9732
♥K75	W	♥A92
♦K863	E	♦542
♣94	S	♣763

♠AJ
♥J64
♦AQ109
♣AQ102

W	N	E	S
No	No	No	1♦
No	1♥	No	2NT
No	3NT	End	
2NT	18-19		

2NT is 18-19. What is your lead?

Any ♠ lead is too aggressive. Your partner has room for an ace so lead the ♥5. E wins the ♥A and switches to the ♠ to beat the contract.

Hand 6
Dealer N
N-S Vul

♠A8743
♥82
♦AK8
♣AQ5

♠QJ652	N	♠109
♥63	W	♥KJ1097
♦J4	E	♦Q1052
♣6432	S	♣108

♠K
♥AQ54
♦9763
♣KJ97