

June 2018 Hand of the Month

Quirk DBC

Board 23	♠ 2	
South Deals	♥ 10 8 6 3 2	
Both Vul	♦ 8 6 3 2	
	♣ 8 3 2	
♠ 10 7 3 ♥ K J 5 4 ♦ A Q J 4 ♣ 6 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K J 9 5 ♥ Q 9 7 ♦ K 10 7 5 ♣ 10 7
	♠ A Q 8 6 4 ♥ A ♦ 9 ♣ A K Q J 9 4	

At the Quirk Center Open game on June 5 hand # 23 was a problem for most pairs. A strong 2 Club auction by North/South was the key.

The South hand has a 2 Club opener since there are 8 1/2 tricks which is required for this bid (6 club tricks, 1 heart trick and 1 1/2 spade tricks). North clearly has a negative response of 2D. South must now bid 3C. 2C opener auctions are forcing to 3 of a Major or 2NT - so this auction is not over (North wishes it was over). North must offer the second negative of 3D (cheapest 3 level). South's next bid is 3S. North clearly prefers Clubs and must bid 4C. South should finish the auction bidding 5C.

The auction is over, but the play is important. If a heart is led, win the Ace and consider the problem you have with the spade suit. Before pulling any trumps, start ruffing spades. As the cards sit, you will make 6!!!

And North thought there was trouble!