

08. 2025 – Bringing in another Slam

Dealer E, Nil Vul

Last week, I wrote that bringing in a Slam is almost always a challenge. Here is another example:

	NORTH	
	108	
	109875	
	107	
	J982	
WEST		EAST
4		AQ9765
A6		QJ32
AKQ94		J
AKQ76		43
	SOUTH	
	KJ32	
	K4	
	86532	
	105	

NOTE: West has a 2-loser Hand, and should be looking for Slam

Bidding at our Table

East	South	West	North
2S (1)	P	2NT (2)	P
3S (3)	P	4NT (4)	P
5D (5)	P	6NT	

- (1) Weak 2 Opening
- (2) Strong, forcing to Game
- (3) Good Spade Suit
- (4) RKCB
- (5) 4 or 1 Key Cards

CONTRACT AND LEAD

6NT by South, lead H10

ANALYSIS

The Lead gives you 2 Heart Tricks

You expect to make 5 Diamonds, so long as they break 4-3 or D10 falls early

You hope to make 5 Clubs if they break 3:3 (well under 50% chance)

That would make the Slam easy to make – 5 Diamonds, 5 Clubs, 2 Hearts and SA = 13 Tricks

To start, you run the Diamonds, noting D10 falls. 5 Tricks there. You hoped the Defenders throw Clubs, but they do not

Now, all you have to do is hope Clubs break 3:3 or 4:2 (nearly an 80% chance). You run them, and North wins the 4th Club with CJ. Whatever he now does, you will make 5 Diamonds, 4 Clubs, 2 Hearts and SA for 12 Tricks – no need for Spade finesse

MORAL OF THE STORY

The play on this Hand looks so easy, but often when playing, you miss the obvious

The imperative is to count your winners at an early stage – here you lose the 4th Club but make the 5th

You make 12 Tricks

Ian Morison

Friday 28 February 2025