

06 - 2023 – Slam Doubles

At club games, you generally play around 24 – 28 hands per Session. Thus, each Board is worth roughly 4% towards your final position

Mostly, the winners at each Session score about 60% (+/- a bit). If you can score 60% across each board, your score will be close to, or enough, to come first!

Naturally, you will have some bad Boards each Session. Your opponents may bid the best contract, may play it well, or you may defend badly. Equally, you may not bid the best contract, or play it well. Your opponents may defend well. You or your opponents may be lucky or unlucky in a guess situation (such as a finesse). Countering this, you will have some good Boards

But overall, if you bid the right contract, play it properly, and defend sensibly, you will end up with a sound score – maybe 60% (+/- a bit), and win the day

Do try to avoid 0% - known as 'Bottoms' - through poor bidding or play. They make it harder to get to the magic 60%. Even if you score poorly on some Boards – say 20%, it all helps towards the magic 60%

One thing written about often is the mistake of Doubling slam contracts

Here are 2 Hands from this week. Both times EW were in a small slam doubled, making both times. Both doubled Contracts gave clear Tops (0% to NS)

Dealer West Nil Vul

	54	
	K2	
	A109842	
	874	
Q32		AK109
Q10986		AJ743
73		-
AQJ		K1092
	J876	
	5	
	KQJ65	
	653	

The Bidding

West opened 1H (a bit light, but a good heart suit, and Not Vul). North bid 2D

Knowing Partner had at least 5 Hearts, East's 109 in both Spades and Clubs, plus the Diamond void, made East's hand very strong, so East asked for Aces, signing off in 6H

North Doubled, and led DA. Before long, 6H Doubled made with an overtrick for Plus 1,310

North announced that he had Doubled as he was sure DA would win, and expected HA to be with West – thus 2 Tricks

But why should North Double? If 6H goes down, that's a good score to NS (maybe 75%). If it makes, it will be a poor score to NS, but others should bid the Slam, so maybe 40% to NS

All North did was ensure they scored 0%

Dealer West E-W Vul

	5	
	AK76	
	Q9642	
	973	
83		AKQJ10964
J83		9
AJ83		5
AQ52		J108
	72	
	Q10542	
	K107	
	K64	

West opened 1C, North passed, East bid 1S, South passed, West bid 1NT, East asked for Aces and bid 6S

North then Doubled

There is 1 Heart loser - the Slam depended on the Club finesse, which worked. Slam made for Plus 1,660

North said he felt he would make 2 Heart tricks, or if just 1 Trick, his partner could make 1 Trick

Again, NS scored 0% - the Double made sure of this

Moral of the Story

Don't Double slams (unless you have 2 sure Tricks – say AK or AQJ of Trumps - and the Bidders have nowhere else to run to)

The aim is to try to get a % score – even if low – on each Hand, all contributing to 60% overall score

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17 Feb 2023