

Bidding: After South opens with 3S and West doubles, East needs to cue the opponent's suit to show the hand's strength and possible slam interest. A 5-level suit scramble should confirm a heart fit and see East declare the heart slam.

Play: You win the heart or club lead, draw trumps and note that South had 3 trumps.

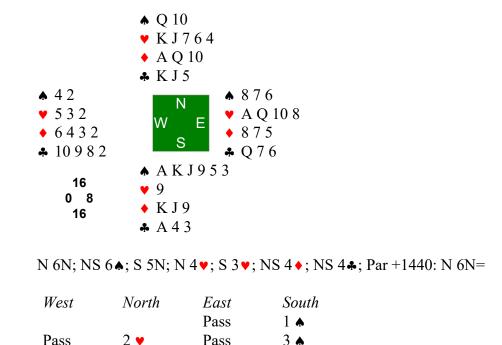
You then test the clubs and find South had a singleton, so what is his likely shape? 7-3-2-1.

It looks like your only chance is to endplay South in diamonds, hoping he began with Kx. When you play Ace and another diamond, ducking in the East hand, South wins his now bare DK and has to lead away from his SK. You run this to your hand to make the slam.

Note it would do West no good to ditch the DK under Dummy's Ace. Then you just play two rounds of diamonds and play Ace another spade, endplaying him another way.

Hand & commentary thanks to Nick Fahrer - The Bridge Shop/Masterbridge Online





Bidding: The traditional Standard auction is shown. South's jump rebid (3S) promises at least 16 points and six spades, so North pushes to slam. If 4 NT is simple Blackwood then South replies 5H as shown, but most tournament players use Roman Keycard and will bid 5C or 5D depending on whether they play 14-30 or 30-14 responses; adjust the auction according to your methods.

Pass

Pass

5 🗸

Pass

4 N

6 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

Play: Declarer faces a heart loser and a third-round club loser. However, although the missing heart honours are offside (and East should not, after winning with one top honour, give the game away by attempting to cash the second), the suit breaks 4-3 so declarer can set up a long suit trick there. The recommended sequences of plays is outlined below.

The club lead is covered by the jack, queen and ace. Declarer draws trumps, then leads a heart to dummy's jack (or king), losing to East who returns a club (this is assuming the CJ went on the first trick, else this club back would not be safe). Dummy wins this trick and now a second round of hearts is played, ruffed by declarer. Overtaking South's diamonds with North's provides three more entries to dummy to ruff out the hearts and get back to enjoy the last heart. Most players miss such opportunities to ruff out a long suit in order to set up an eventual trick - and often, as here, attention must also be paid to entries, as you need to get to a particular hand on multiple occasions.

Hand/commentary thanks to Derrick Browne - Trumps Bridge Centre - trumps.net.au