

East/West bid to a good slam contract on the following deal (Shoreham 23rd Sept, board 12)

A1063	J
K	A9832
KQ95	AJ842
AQ75	84

East opened One Heart, West responded One Spade and East rebid Two Diamonds. West might have launched into Blackwood at this point but chose to bid Three Clubs, a fourth suit bid. East bid Three Diamonds, so West knew of the 5-5 (or 6-5) shape opposite. West asked for aces and settled for a final contract of Six Diamonds.

So much for the bidding. Look at the full layout below and decide how you would play Six Diamonds after South leads the Jack of clubs :

	Q92
	107654
	7
	K932
A1063	J
K	A9832
KQ95	AJ842
AQ75	84
	K8754
	QJ
	1063
	J106

Although the contract failed at the table, it can be made against any lead. Here are a couple of possible lines of play.

Let's say you decide to try the club finesse and play the Queen from dummy. North wins the King and returns a heart, won by dummy's King. You cash the King of diamonds and lead a second diamond to your Ace (North discarding a low club). Now you ruff a heart in dummy, cash the Ace of spades and ruff a spade low. You lead another low heart (South discarding a low spade) and ruff it with dummy's last trump, the Queen. You ruff another of dummy's spades and you have reached this position with four cards left :

	107

	93
10	---
---	A9
---	J
A75	8
	K

	10
	106

Now you cash the Jack of diamonds to draw South's last trump, discarding a low club from dummy.
 What can North discard on this trick ? Not a heart because that would establish both of your hearts, so North has to discard a club, leaving this :

107	

9	
10	---
---	A9
---	---
A7	8
K	

106	

You lead the Ace of hearts next and now it is South's turn to feel the pressure. He has to keep the King of spades in order to guard dummy's ten, so he too is forced to discard a club. You can now discard dummy's ten of spades (it has done its job) and win the last two tricks with dummy's Ace and seven of clubs !

Now go back to trick 1 and say you decide to play dummy's Ace of clubs on the opening lead and then cash dummy's King of hearts at trick 2. You then play exactly as described above and reach this slightly different position with four cards left :

107	

K9	
10	---
---	A9
---	J
Q75	8
K	

10	
106	

You cash the Jack of diamonds to draw South's last trump ... and what does North discard ? It looks as if North can afford to discard the nine of clubs, but when you next lead a low club North has to win and is forced to lead a heart from his 107 into your A9. Twelve tricks made again !

Enjoy your bridge.