



eleven cards in the minors and specifically the bare King of Hearts. It would also mean that East has bid on vulnerable missing the Ace of Diamonds and both red kings. Having worked all this out, North has an "obvious" switch to Clubs with the reward of not losing a game swing. South should play his part by dropping the King of Clubs on declarer's Ace so that North has no doubt of what to do when in with the King of Diamonds.

In the event, all major suit contracts from 4S to 6H were declared; 5H was defeated in three of five attempts and let through twice.

## Board 7

Bd: 7	♠ 98		
Vul: All	♥ --		
Dir: South	♦ AK9873		
	♣ AJ1087		
♠ A7543	N	♠ KQJ106	
♥ 854	W 7 E	♥ KJ72	
♦ 1062	S	♦ J	
♣ 54		♣ K32	
12	♠ 2	♣♦♥♠ N	
4HCP14	♥ AQ10963	N 5 5 1 - 2	
10	♦ Q54	S 5 5 1 - 2	
	♣ Q96	E - - - 2 -	
		W - - - 2 -	

A normal 1H opening for South. North will respond 2D and most Easts will insert 2S. Whatever action South takes at this point West may well pre-empt to 4S. Those NS pairs who play 2-over-1 as game forcing have the advantage as North can make a forcing pass. Let us say the auction has gone 1H-p-2D-2s-3D-4s-P-p-, South is entitled to show a Club control at this point and when he doesn't North will give up on a slam and respectfully pass his partner's 5D bid.

Even when 2D is not game forcing South should not be shy about bidding 3D over East's 2S. It is very easy to pass in this situation because, "I only had 10 points", but later in the auction you will have difficulty convincing partner of your genuine support for his suit. Showing support for partner, even when relatively weak, is always a good idea.

As it happens, whether South is shy or bold, North will bid 5C over 4S. South will correct to 5D and North will perhaps be both surprised and grateful for the dummy he gets. There remains the possibility that with both minor Queens and a singleton Spade, South will be tempted to bid 6D. Unlucky this time.

You may think there is not much about this hand, 5D or 6D seem obvious; however, it seems several Souths were not keen on supporting their partner's first suit. In the A section one pair played in only 4D and two pairs defended 2S. In the B section, one NS pair played

4D, one defended 2S and another played in 4H which somehow made; it's three down on repeated Spade leads.

### Board 18

Bd: 18	♠ K10762		
Vul: N/S	♥ J10932		
Dlr: East	♦ 8		
	♣ 74		
♠ Q9	N	♠ A84	
♥ K5	W 18 E	♥ A74	
♦ J10762	S	♦ AKQ5	
♣ AKJ8		♣ Q95	
4	♠ J53	♣♦♥♠ N	
14HCP19	♥ Q86	N - - - - -	
3	♦ 943	S - - - - -	
	♣ 10632	E 6 6 1 2 6	
		W 6 6 2 2 6	

Once again, it all looks straightforward. East shows a balanced 18-19 with a Diamond suit, West does the arithmetic and bids 6D (probably the best slam at teams) or 6NT. Twelve top tricks, job done. However, it is easy for West to slip up. A likely start is 1D-2C, the West hand is too good to just raise Diamonds and the wrong shape to bid 3NT (Does anyone still bid like that?) Forgetting North for the moment, East will make a descriptive rebid. Where a weak no-trump is active then 2NT in this auction is forcing to game and shows 15-19. This permits a 3NT rebid to show a good hand with a six-card suit and a guard in each of the unbid suits. In times past, when we used to respond at the two level on 8hcp, the 2NT rebid showed just 15-16 and was not forcing. On this deal West needs to be on-line with his system and appreciate his partner may have the stronger end of his range. Whether he invites with 4D or 4NT East will accept and the slam secured. Two pairs in the A and three in the B failed to bid this one; shows how easy it is to slip up on what should be a bread and butter deal.

North may interject with his shape (possibly 2D showing 5-5) but that should not distort the EW auction or deter their ambition.