

♣♦♥♠ March 2026 Hand of the Month 96: Unusual distributions

It's been a while since we did a hand of the week but following the recent 'improvers' weekend teaching it got me thinking about it again. What are the chances of picking up a hand with void? 5%, or about 1:20, perhaps a bit higher than you thought? Let's see what happens with this hand from November last year:



♠ K 10 7 3
♥ 7
♦ 9 3
♣ K 10 6 4 3 2

All vulnerable partner opens 1♥, I respond 1♠ and partner jumps to 4♣

A double jump is called a 'splinter bid', this is game forcing, agreeing the last suit bid as trumps, and typically shows a void or singleton in the bid suit. I have no additional values to help in diamonds and the long club suit might not be helpful opposite a shortage. I do not want to be too encouraging, so conservatively sign off in 4♠, partner then jumps to 6♥!

Have a misbid or is something else going on?

We don't have any additional agreements in this sequence, so I assume it is natural, partner presumably had a long running heart suit and with the club void can choose which slam to play in, perhaps they are worried about entries to their hand if hearts are not trumps?- so I pass.

West leads A♦ which partner ruffs.

Wait a minute, I thought they had shown a void in clubs?!

The full hand:

Dir: South
Vul: All

♠ K 10 7 3
♥ 7
♦ 9 3
♣ K 10 6 4 3 2

♠ Q 8 4
♥ 10 9
♦ A K 10 7 4
♣ A 9 7

WEST NORTH EAST
7
SOUTH

♠ J
♥ 6 2
♦ Q J 8 6 5 2
♣ Q J 8 5

♠ A 9 6 5 2
♥ A K Q J 8 5 4 3
♦ -
♣ -

Optimum
NS 7S
NS 7H
+2210

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	7	4	13	13	6
S	7	4	13	13	6
E	5	9	0	0	0
W	5	9	0	0	0

6
13 7
14

A very unusual distribution! A grand slam in either major is available but depends on reading the position in spades correctly. If you cash the A♠ and East plays the J♠ would you read that as a singleton or a doubleton J-10? A small slam in either major is the preferred contract.

An 8-5 distribution specially occurs about 1:40,000 and any hand with 2 voids about 1:10,000.

So if you played two sessions a week you might see a 'double void' come up about once every four years.