

Club Championship (double black points)

Board 19

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q 10 7 5 4 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ 7 3
♣ 7 6

♠ A
♥ K 10
♦ A Q J 8 6 5
♣ K 5 4 2



♠ 8 3
♥ A 2
♦ 10 9 4 2
♣ A J 10 9 3

♠ K J 9 6
♥ Q 9 8 7 5 4
♦ K
♣ Q 8

EW 7N; EW 7♦; EW 7♣; NS 1♠; EW 1♥;
Par -2220

West	North	East	South
			Pass ¹
1♦	2♠ ²	4♣ ³	5♠ ⁴
6♦	All pass		

1. too many defects for 2♥ (bad suit, four spades, defensive minors)
 2. weak
 3. fit-showing game try
 4. if you are going to save, do it immediately: give them the "last guess"
- 6♦ by West

While I did not play this week, I discovered these two deals from the score slips.

Getting to this 75% slam with only 26 high card points was worth a great score. The auction above is an example of how the slam might be reached. East might have tried 3♣, 3♦ or 3♠ instead of 4♣, either not playing fit-showing jumps, or wanting 3NT in the picture. The 50% 3NT is riskier than 6♦, but garnered 4 of 6 matchpoints, when it made seven.

The declarer in 6♣, drawing trumps immediately, misguessed and made only six. The declarer in 6♦ had more time to scope out the distribution and brought in the overtrick for a cold top.

Bottom score on this deal was letting East-West play 3♥, only +50, and one pair subsided in 4♦. Bidding the 25% grand that happens to make on this deal would have been foolishly greedy, risking the 5 or 6 matchpoints available at 6 of a minor.

Club Championship (double black points)

Board 22

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 9 8 6 4 3
♥ 8 4
♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ J 10

♠ J 10 7
♥ —
♦ K 2
♣ Q 9 7 6 5 4 3 2



♠ A 5 2
♥ A K Q 7 6 5
♦ 9 8
♣ K 8

♠ K Q
♥ J 10 9 3 2
♦ A J 6 4 3
♣ A

EW 5♣; EW 2N; EW 2♥; S 3♦; N 2♦; Par -300:
S 5♦×-2

West	North	East	South
		1♥	2♦ ¹
Pass ²	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
5♣	All pass		

1. likely last chance to bid the only suit you want to play in - dummy ruffs ♥ after West
 2. 3♦ is pusillanimous - keep the secret or jump to a rich 4♦
 3. bid 3NT with a ♦ stop
- 5♣ by West

3NT is cold on a non-diamond lead. Above is a possible route to 5♣. If North jumps to 4♦, East should try 4♥, and South should *pass* the game he can beat. When West removes to 5♣, East must *pass*. Why? Expert players do play "implied fit" cue bids: a bid of a new suit a high level shows a control, slam interest, and implies a fit for partner's suit. Could this be one of those? No way:

Any hand of modest values with three hearts would have raised to 2♥; a hand with ten or so points and two hearts would have found something to do over 2♦. This is how you act with a long, bad suit - stick it in later, if you get the chance.

With likely one chance to lead, North may try a spade, putting declarer to the test. Declarer must win, noting South's honor, and pitch two spades on top hearts. Now the winning line is an unlikely small club from dummy. South's ♣ A goes on air and West ruffs the heart return with the ♣ Q. The ♣ K draws trump to lead a diamond from dummy.