

WHAT TO DO WITH A 6-6?

There are 2 passes to you. You hold:

| | |
|---|--------|
| S | South |
| ♠ | A65432 |
| ♥ | |
| ♦ | AK8752 |
| ♣ | A |

How many times have you been dealt a hand with 6 cards in two suits? I can't remember a single time. I was dealt this in a match on iBridgePlus, the IOS bridge app I write a weekly column for.

This hand calls out for something special. If partner has support for one of my suits, I know I can make a game and possibly a slam. I started out with a 1♠ opener. West doubled for takeout and partner, surprisingly, raised to 2♠.

Although I have only 15 HCP, my Losing Trick Count (LTC) is only 3. That means that if partner can cover two of my losers, I can take 12 tricks. A responding hand that makes a single raise, usually contains 2 or 3 cover cards. I should be able to make my spade slam as long as partner holds the ♠K or the ♠K is in West and can be finessed. I also need to be able to set up the diamonds for 6 tricks.

For my rebid, I started with 4♣. This was defined as a splinter bid showing a singleton or void in clubs, agreement to spades as the trump suit and interest in a slam. Partner rebid 4♥. This shows a stopper in hearts and confirmation of my slam intentions. He would have returned to 4♣ if he had less than his original raise promised.

It would do no good to use Blackwood because if North has 1 key card, I wouldn't know if it was the ♥A, which I don't need; or the ♠K which would be helpful and make 7♠ a possibility. It's times like this, where just bidding what you think you can make is the right thing to do. I blasted into 6♠.

East leads the ♦Q. Take over the South hand and plan the play:

| | |
|---|--------|
| N | North |
| ♠ | Q97 |
| ♥ | A10982 |
| ♦ | 64 |
| ♣ | J32 |

West leads $\heartsuit Q$

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| S | South |
| \spadesuit | A65432 |
| \heartsuit | |
| \diamondsuit | AK8752 |
| \clubsuit | A |

If the spades break 2-2, you will lose 1 spade and if diamonds break 3-2, you can make the contract. The diamond break is 68% but the spade break is only 40%. However, if the spades break 3-1, there is a small probability that the $\spadesuit K$ is singleton. This raises the 40% to a about 50%.

Win the diamond lead and play the $\clubsuit A$ and the $\spadesuit A$. The $\spadesuit K$ falls from West. Now you can pull one more trump from East with the $\spadesuit Q$. You can discard a diamond on dummy's $\heartsuit A$ while you are in the dummy, but now you must go to work on the diamonds. You have to make sure you leave a trump in the dummy to ruff a diamond. Both defenders play to the $\diamondsuit AK$. You lead another diamond and ruff with dummy's $\spadesuit 9$. This will probably be over ruffed by East. But this is the last trick they can take. Any return will be trumped by you and the rest of the diamonds are good.

This is the entire deal:

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| D | 5 | N North | W | N | E | S |
| | | \spadesuit Q97 | | P | P | 1 \spadesuit |
| | | \heartsuit A10982 | X | 2 \spadesuit | P | 4 \clubsuit |
| | | \diamondsuit 64 | P | 4 \heartsuit | P | 6 \spadesuit |
| | | \clubsuit J32 | P | P | P | |
| W West | | | E East | | | |
| \spadesuit K | | | \spadesuit J108 | | | |
| \heartsuit KJ54 | | | \heartsuit Q763 | | | |
| \diamondsuit QJ9 | | | \diamondsuit 103 | | | |
| \clubsuit Q10976 | | | \clubsuit K854 | | | |
| | | S South | | | | |
| | | \spadesuit A65432 | | | | |
| | | \heartsuit | | | | |
| | | \diamondsuit AK8752 | | | | |
| | | \clubsuit A | | | | |
| | | | 6 \spadesuit S | | | NS: 0 EW: 0 |

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8xkkygg>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.