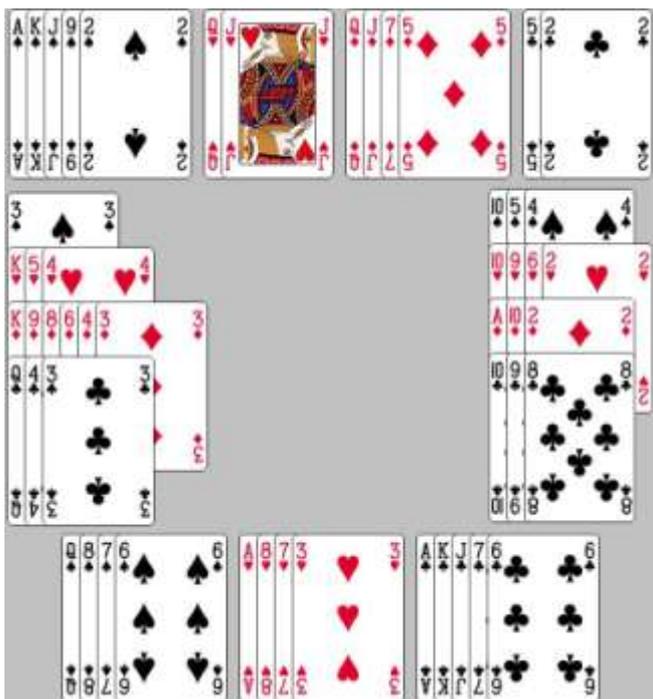


The enquiries when going for slam can become very messy when you have a void. So it is sometimes better to just go for it straight away. This happened last Wednesday.



The auction began with North opening 1S. East had nothing to say so sitting South and holding a 5 loser hand and a void in Diamonds, I felt that I might as well go straight to 6S.

East led the Ace of D which was ruffed in dummy. My reading of the situation called for declarer to play the Ace and King of Clubs and then ruff the third round of Clubs in hand. They break 3:3 so now there would be 2 Club winners sitting in Dummy to discard 2 more Diamonds.

Then playing a Diamond to be ruffed in dummy would allow the Queen of Spades, a small Spade to the Ace and King of Spades to draw the last trump (because they don't break 2:2 but 3:1).

Now going to Dummy with the Ace of Hearts allows you to play the 2 Club winners on which you discard the Diamonds. Give the opponents a trick with their King of hearts and take the last trick with your trump.

	West	North	East	South
1	6♦	5♦	A♦	*6♠
2	3♣	2♣	8♣	*A♣
3	4♣	5♣	9♣	*K♣
4	Q♣	*2♠	10♣	6♣
5	3♦	7♦	2♦	*7♠
6	3♠	9♠	5♠	*Q♠
7	9♦	*A♠	4♠	8♠
8	4♦	*K♠	10♠	3♥
9	4♥	J♥	6♥	*A♥
10	5♥	J♦	2♥	*J♣
11	8♦	Q♦	9♥	*7♣
12	*K♥	Q♥	10♥	7♥
13	K♥	*J♠	10♦	8♥

So this is what the play should look like (diagram at left).

What really happened though is this.....

Unfortunately, partner made a couple of mistakes. After ruffing the opening lead, she took 2 rounds of trumps and then led a small Club.

East is a foxy player though (sister of the renowned "cagey ladies") and played the 10 Clubs taking a Jack of Clubs finesse which lost to the Queen of Clubs.

Later partner also tried for a Queen of Hearts finesse which also lost, this time to the King. She then ruffed a small Club high thereby promoting the 10 of Spades.

Result 2 off in a small slam contract that was makeable.

Happy Bridging, Bal