

<b>Board 12</b>		♠ AQ10	
<b>Dealer W</b>		♥ AK65	
<b>NS Vul</b>		♦ J96	
		♣ AK4	
	♠ 52		♠ 7643
	♥ Q93		♥ 108742
	♦ K853		♦ Q72
	♣ 10973		♣ 6
		♠ KJ98	
		♥ J	
		♦ A104	
		♣ QJ852	
			NT ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
			N 12 12 9 10 12
			S 12 12 9 10 12
			E 1 1 4 2 1
			W 1 1 4 2 1
Par +1440	6NT= NS		

Most people got this one right and bid slam after North opened 2NT. Not everyone though. Some did not appreciate the quality of the South hand. One of the key features is the clubs. A 5 card suit is like having an extra trick. We can see that 12 tricks are easy. But imagine you did not have the fifth club.

♠ – AQ10	♠ – KJ98
♥ – AK65	♥ – J2
♦ – J96	♦ – A104
♣ – AK4	♣ – QJ85

Now you don't have 12 tricks on top because you don't have a fifth club trick. Fortunately you will still probably make 12 tricks because of the diamond suit. 2 finesses will produce a 12<sup>th</sup> trick unless both KQ are both in the wrong hand. That brings us to the other hidden value in the South hand. The 10♦. How would it look without that card?

♠ – AQ10	♠ – KJ98
♥ – AK65	♥ – J2
♦ – J96	♦ – A74
♣ – AK4	♣ – QJ85

Not so attractive now is it?

On a diamond lead if the honours are split you probably have no chance. If the lead is a neutral black suit your best chance is to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> heart trick. The way to do that is to lead a small heart away from AK towards the Jack. If the Q♥ is in the right place you will succeed, but that is only a 50/50 chance.

But all that wasn't needed because we had those wonderful assets.

The fifth ♣ and the 10♦. I hope you valued them properly and bid the slam.