

Declarer Play At Suit Contracts – Part 3

♠ Q 10 9 7
♥ A 10 9 3 2
♦ 2
♣ K 7 6

♠ A K J 8
♥ 8
♦ A Q 10 9 3
♣ A 10 9

Bidding	South	West	North	East
	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
	1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
	5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
	6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Routine bids by South/North until South embarks on a cue bid of 5♣

Lead ♥K by West.

Plan the play.

Look at your strengths/weaknesses.

What opportunities, what threats?

Count your certain losers and other possible losers – how can you reduce them?

Solution will follow after Thursday 20th May.

South has an obvious 1♦ opener, and North a simple 1♥ response. South has an unlimited hand bids a quiet 1♠. North (a losing trick man) realises that game should be on and goes straight to game. South with 2 fewer losers than could be expected makes a slam try by cue bidding the ♣A. North co-operates with a return cue bid and South bids the slam.

South counts his obvious losers - none in trumps, one definitely in Clubs. Therefore, he cannot afford any losers in Hearts or Diamonds. The singletons opposite the red Aces and the solid trumps cries out that a cross ruff is an option. Thus, he counts his potential tricks - 2 red Aces, 2 Clubs and 8 tricks in trumps (4 ruffs in each hand). 12 tricks are possible. Now it is just a question of taking them. If South embarks on the crossruff straight away, East or West may discard clubs on the Hearts and Diamonds as the crossruff proceeds. Then when South attempts to cash his Club honours, the defence may ruff and defeat the slam. So South must cash the A♣ and K♣ before the cross ruff - this is normal practice in a cross ruff - cash your side suit winners first.

Note a trump lead would have defeated the slam - but sadly for the defence West did not have one.

Full hand over leaf.

♠ Q 10 9 7
♥ A 10 9 3 2
♦ 2
♣ K 7 6

♠ -
♥ K Q J 7
♦ K J 7 6 4
♣ Q J 3 2

♠ 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 6 5 4
♦ 8 5
♣ 8 5 4

♠ A K J 8
♥ 8
♦ A Q 10 9 3
♣ A 10 9