

Dealer: South

Vul: Both

	<b>NORTH</b>	
	♠AQ83	
	♥AK75	
<b>WEST</b>	♦A1082	<b>EAST</b>
♠964	♣6	♠10
♥963		♥1042
♦J7		♦9543
♣A10753	<b>SOUTH</b>	♣KJ842
	♠KJ752	
	♥QJ8	
	♦KQ6	
	♣Q9	

**SUGGESTED BIDDING:**

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
1S	Pass	4NT	Pass
5C	Pass	6S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

As soon as South opens 1S, North should be interested in a slam contract. With 17HCP plus 3 dummy points for the singleton club, there should be at least 33 points in the combined hands. Since there might be a grand slam if there are no missing aces, North should start by using the Blackwood convention to ask opener how many aces he holds. The 5C response shows zero (or all four) and now North knows an ace is missing. He can confidently bid 6S, knowing there is not enough for a grand slam.

**SUGGESTED PLAY:**

If West leads the ♣A, East is held to 12 tricks. His remaining club loser can be trumped in dummy or discarded on one of dummy's extra winners. On the other hand, if West fails to lead the ♣A, declarer can win the trick, draw trumps, and then discard both club losers on dummy's extra winners. One is discarded on the extra heart winner and the other goes on dummy's ♦10 after the ♦J appears when declarer takes the ♦K and ♦Q. The top matchpoint result will go to the pair who make this overtrick when West fails to lead the ♣A. At duplicate, when the opponents bid quickly and confidently to slam, it is usually a good idea to lead an ace, if you have one. On boards such as this one, the ♣A lead will prevent declarer from making that coveted overtrick.