

# DON'S CORNER

*by Don Gardner*

This deal was played in a recent club game. You are declarer in a 6♥ contract (which was not actually bid by anyone at the time). You will be presented with an interesting play problem. This is not a good slam, but we all have been in worse ones.

**Dummy**  
♠ A 7 3  
♥ Q 9 8 7  
♦ A K J  
♣ A J 9

**Declarer**  
♠ K J 10  
♥ A K J 10  
♦ 7 4  
♣ 7 5 4 2

Vulnerable: None

Assume trumps to be split 3-2

Plan the play.

**SCROLL DOWN FOR THE SOLUTION**

# SOLUTION

After the opening lead, and with trumps being 3-2, you have eleven tricks to start. The success of your contract depends upon how you handle the club suit.

What is the layout of the club suit that is important? Not where the club honors are (you have to assume they are divided), but where the 10♣ is. You need it to be on your left so assume it is there.

Here is the full layout:

		<b>Dummy</b>			
		♠	A 7 3		
		♥	Q 9 8 7		
		♦	A K J		
		♣	A J 9		
	<b>West</b>			<b>East</b>	
♠	9 8 5 4			♠	Q 6 2
♥	3 2			♥	6 5 4
♦	8 5 3 2			♦	Q 10 9 6
♣	Q 10 8			♣	K 6 3
		<b>Declarer</b>			
		♠	K J 10		
		♥	A K J 10		
		♦	7 4		
		♣	7 5 4 2		

Let's say you win the space opening lead, draw trumps, and take the two remaining spade tricks ending in hand. You play a club to the 9 (LHO plays low). RHO wins with the King, and returns a diamond!!! Take a moment to decide the rest of the play.

You have to be careful not to lose sight of your original plan. You do not need three diamond tricks so you have to trump your third diamond winner to return to your hand. Now you can lead another club to the Jack and claim your slam. You can see what will happen if you do not trump the third diamond.