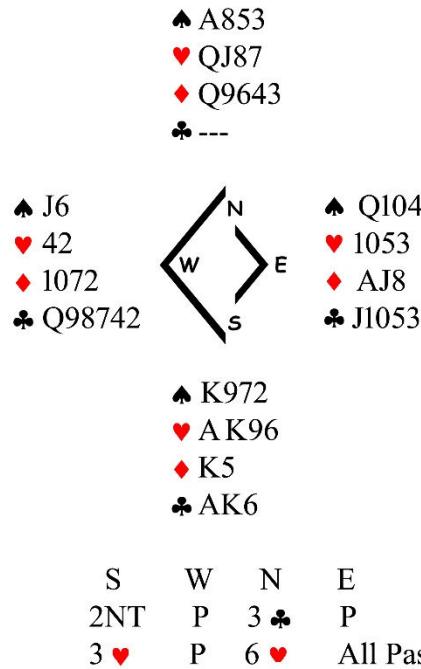


333. Slam Depends on the Suit

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--North South Vulnerable--

This is a very interesting hand that occurred at the Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club. We play bridge every Monday at noon at the Warfield Hall. A lesson starts half an hour before game time.

The bidding:

South opens Two No Trump with a balanced 20 HCP's. North instantly thinks of slam if a fit can be found. North bids Stayman, Three Clubs, and South bids his four-card majors up-the-line. North raises to six.

The Play:

West, trying to keep a low defensive footprint, leads trump. Declarer draws trump

and then pitches two Spades on the top two Clubs. Declarer can then ruff Spades good and lose a Diamond, ruff a Club and claim. A simple method to good declarer play is to pick a hand, South in this case, and make it good.

The Result:

Declarer makes 12 tricks for +1430. However, it should be noted that a Spade contract only has 11 tricks so a slam will be down one. This highlights the need for Puppet Stayman. South will learn that North has both four-card majors and therefore will pick the stronger major, Hearts here. However, if the majors were reversed, only pairs using Puppet Stayman will bid and make slam. This example is an illustration of slam depending on the suit.