

There are several points of note on the below hand from Easy Bridge 4.

Bidding:

Over 1NT bid by E/W, the 2H bid is purely a holding bid, waiting to see what Partner bids next. Over the 2S I bid 4NT, because I was unsure as to whether the computer would take 4C as Gerber – a better Aces-inquiry as it retains bidding space. The 6H is a slight stretch, but the Spade singleton has increased value (remember that for the play!)

Play: (Note that the card in Brackets is the lead, the one in asterisks is the winner.)

The computer Doubled in spite, and I redoubled – even more spiteful! The contract made with the computer’s defence – he continued with the Spade Ace, thus setting up the rest of the Spades on the table for Diamond & Club discards. Wally!

The salient defensive point here is that a freely-bid Slam **without support from partner for the Suit** usually indicates a shortage elsewhere. Here, a switch to Diamonds (the King or Queen) is very unlikely to cost. Furthermore, if South has another Spade, there is really nothing in dummy on which to discard it. You now sit back and wait for the setting trick. Here, good technique by South will bring it home (by ruffing finesses in Spades). The important point here is that **you should always give the opponent a chance to go wrong!**

