

	North	
West	Q 9 8 3 Q 6 5 Q 10 8 A 6 2	East
J 7 4 2 K 7 2 3 2 Q 10 4	South A K 10 A J A K J 6 K J 9 7	6 5 10 9 8 3 9 7 5 4 8 5 3

The most interesting feature of this Hand from Wed. 21st in RBC was the fact that while it's blindingly obvious that Slam (either!) is on, is how to find the correct level - 6 or 7!

The Bidding could have gone:

S	W	N	E
	P	P	P
2D(1)	P	2H(2)	P
2NT(3)	P	6NT(4)	All Pass

(1) Benjamin, Big Two. (2) Relay. (3) 23-24 pts. (4) Enough for 6 NT, **but not really interested in 7!** (The max. is 34 pts. With a long suit, however...)

An amazing pair of hands. While you have all the Aces and three Kings, 7 seems to have No Chance - the 4 Spades and both Queens OffSide scupper the 13th Trick. Even 6 needs careful play, although West's natural lead of a low Spade solves **most** your problems. The only safe lead for West is a Diamond - not easily found, although it should be logically determined. In any event, the correct play to guarantee 12 tricks is to run your 4 Diamond winners (discarding a Club), and then, depending on West's discards, take a finesse into West. He is now EndPlayed and must give you your 12th. trick. Try it and see....

The really sharp amongst you will have noted that the Grand can actually make, but almost double-dummy. Simply run your 4 Diamonds. West is stuck for two discards. If he discards a Spade, the run of the four Spades embarrassing him in Hearts & Clubs. He either has to bare his Heart King, or unprotect his Club Queen.