

Learning Points – When You’re in 6 – Part II

by Steve Moese (Mike Purcell ed.)

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Slams LEVEL: Basic

South Deals
None Vul
MPs

♠ AKQJ102
♥ 43
♦ AK7
♣ A2

Mike

♠ 8
♥ Q876
♦ J109862
♣ KJ

N
W 11 E
S

♠ 65
♥ KJ1052
♦ Q5
♣ Q843

♠ 9743
♥ A9
♦ 43
♣ 109765

Steve

| South | West | North | East |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|----------|
| Pass | 2♦ | Double | Pass |
| 2♠ ¹ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 4♣ ² | Pass | 4♦ ³ | Pass |
| 4♥ ⁴ | Pass | 6♣ | All Pass |

West leads ♦ J

1 = 4+♠ 0-8 HCP; 2 = ♣ length; 3 = Tell me more
4 = ♥A

Monday Evening November 27, 2009 ACBL Charity Pairs,
Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper
Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070 . Mr. Mike Lipp,
Director. All hands played in this pairs event are summarized in
the hand record provided by the ACBL. Today my partner is
Mike Ma. We play Precision.

Not often back to back hands are touchy slams in the same strain
against the same opponents by the same declarer. Who dealt
these hands anyway?

The Bidding

West’s weak 2♦ might or might not be bid everywhere. North
began the strongest possible overcall auction. While South’s 2♠
fully bid his hand, partner’s cue bids asked more details. South
bids length before cue bidding the ♥A. When Dummy hits I
thank partner for such a superb hand.

The Play

This tricky hand fails on a ♥ lead (East now wishes she bid 2♥
over North’s takeout double). Without that help, West led from
what we knew. The play was straight forward. We hope the ♣s break no worse than 4-2, or we are down
1. Declarer will not spend the ♠9 as it might be useful for transportation back to the weak hand.

2 rounds of Dummy’s trumps draw the opposing cards. The ♥A will stay in place until we are forced to
play it. Tricks 3 and 4 are ♣s, West winning the ♣K. ♣ are breaking no worse than 4-2! The ♥ return gets
the ♥A and declarer ruffs a ♣ in dummy with a high trump preserving dummy’s ♠2. Transportation back
to hand is managed once by ruffing the 3rd round of ♦. The 2nd ♣ ruff with a high trump clears the suit.
Declarer gets back to hand the final time in trumps (the carefully preserved ♠2 to ♠9) to pitch dummy’s
losing ♥ on the now good ♣10. Making 6 for +980 was a top board.

| Pair | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| MPs | 6.25 | 7.94 | 6.25 | 2.31 | | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | |
| Score | 480 | 980 | 480 | 450 | ---- | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | --- |

Often you’ll find that bidding and making a speculative slam at MP pairs is worth marginally more than
simply making 6 while bidding game. Going down would be disastrous. South’s 4♣ bid is forced by
North and the 4♥ call is aggressive but right on shape and values.

Post Mortem

Partner needed South to hold only ♥K and ♣K to make slam a laydown. This hand is a guess for our side
and for the defense. A 2♥ free bid by East would have made bidding slam unlikely, and would defeat the
slam were we to bid it. Indeed a ♥ lead yields a 75% score for EW.

Learning Points

1. Know your strong sequences after partner’s takeout doubles. Be sure to discuss the meaning of 2 or 3
cue bids in a row.
2. Show your hand’s features and let partner decide when facing a monster hand. The opponents might
not find the right defense.

Key Words: Cue bid after takeout double, Bidding features.