

## ACBL - BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

**Timely** by Tim Bourke - Apr 25 2011

Dealer South Vul :Both	NORTH ♠8 6 5 ♥K 10 ♦A K 7 ♣Q 10 9 3 2	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠A K J ♥A 9 4 2 ♦5 3 2 ♣A K J	

North	East	South	West
--	--	2 NT	Pass
6 NT	All Pass		

West leads the ♦J. What is the best approach to making the slam?

## Solution

With 11 top tricks, a successful spade finesse would give you the slam, but you must also look at the hearts. If you play that suit correctly, you will have a 55% chance of making three heart tricks, with the spade finesse still possible if you need it. The full deal:

	♠ 8 6 5	
	♥ K 10	
	♦ A K 7	
	♣ Q 10 9 3 2	
♠ Q 9 3		♠ 10 7 4 2
♥ J 7 3		♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ J 10 9 4		♦ Q 8 6
♣ 8 7 4		♣ 6 5
	♠ A K J	
	♥ A 9 4 2	
	♦ 5 3 2	
	♣ A K J	

Win the diamond lead with the king and cross to the ♠A. Next, play the ♥2, intending to play dummy's 10 if West follows low. This will succeed immediately when West holds the ♥Q and ♥J, no matter whether he splits them or not. When each defender has a heart honor, you will still make an extra heart trick when West has two or three hearts to an honor (and also when East began with Q-J-x). In the actual deal, dummy's 10 will lose to the queen. You win the diamond return, cash the ♥K and cross to the ♣K. When you play the heart ace, West's jack will appear and the ♥9 will be your 12th trick.

If the heart suit had not produced a third trick, you would cash the ♠A and run dummy's club suit. Then, unless East was known to guard the hearts, you would finesse the ♠J. If East has kept a known heart guard, you would play a spade, and if East started the deal with the ♠Q and still has a heart left, the spade honor will appear. If East follows with a low spade, the only hope would then be that West began with a doubleton queen.