

Thanks to TIM BOURKE of Australia

Quiz No 1 DEFINITELY

Dealer: South Vul : E-W	NORTH ♠K42 ♥K10986 ♦A643 ♣2	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠A3 ♥A7543 ♦KQ852 ♣A	

North	East	South	West
		1 Heart	5 Club
5 Heart	Pass	6 Heart	All Pass

West leads the king of clubs. East follows and your ace wins the trick. You note that a grand slam would be a fair bet on these cards and that it would be embarrassing to fail in this contract Given that West has at least seven clubs, can you make certain of the contract?

ANSWER

You should begin by cashing the ace and king of trumps. If the trumps are 2-1, you have twelve certain tricks and you will have a thirteenth unless the diamonds are 4-0. Similarly, you will always have twelve tricks if the diamonds are not 4-0. So the cases to worry about are when the trumps are 3-0 and the diamonds are 4-0.

If East has three trumps, continue by playing the ace and king of spades then ruff dummy's remaining spade. Then you will exit with a trump. Suppose the full deal is:

	NORTH ♠ K42 ♥ K10986 ♦ A643 ♣ 2	
WEST ♠ 9765 ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ KQJ1098754		EAST ♠ QJ108 ♥ QJ2 ♦ J1097 ♣ 63
	SOUTH ♠ A3 ♥ A7543 ♦ KQ852 ♣ A	

East wins the trump and cannot return a black suit for that would allow you to ruff in hand and discard a diamond from dummy; you would then have the rest of the tricks. If East exits with a diamond honour, you will play low from hand and win the trick with dummy's ace. A diamond from dummy sees East with no winning option; if he plays low you will play the eight and if he splits his remaining honours, you will win, cross back to dummy with a trump to finesse the eight of diamonds. The only trap is that if East exits with the seven of diamonds then you must be alert enough to cover it with the eight of diamonds.

When West has three trumps, he cannot have four diamonds so eliminate the spades as above and exit with a trump. When West has a void in diamonds too, he must concede a ruff-and-discard with his forced black-suit return.