

Hand of the Month

September 2005

North
 ♠ A Q J 10 7 5
 ♥ A 10 9 6
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ 9

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

South
 ♠
 ♥ K Q 7 6 2
 ♦ A K 10 4
 ♣ A 8 6 4

Dealer: East			
Neither Vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
		P	1♥
3♣	4♣	P	4♦
P	4♠	P	5♣
P	6♥	All pass	
Opening lead: ♣K			

With primary trump support, it's usually best to raise partner if space is a consideration. North elected to suppress his spade suit in order to show his strong support for partner's heart suit. This enabled N-S to easily reach their lay down heart slam.

South opened 1♥ and West preempted to 3♣. North cuebid 4♣ to show a strong heart raise (his club control being incidental). N-S then cuebid their aces. After South showed both minor suit aces, North jumped to a slam.

West led the ♣K, won by declarer's ace as East's jack fell. Declarer cashed two rounds of trumps from his hand as everyone followed. He then ruffed a club in dummy. The declarer cashed the ♠A and discarded a club. The ♠Q was lead, declarer pitching a diamond, losing to West's king. Declarer claimed the rest to make his slam as dummy's jack and ten of ♠ would provide discards for any remaining losers. If East held the ♠K, declarer would have made all the tricks.