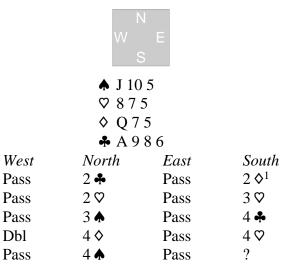
**Board 9**West Deals
N-S Vul

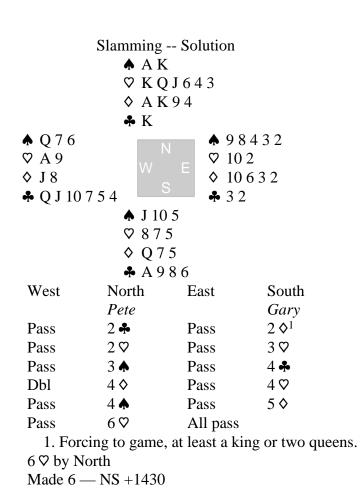


1. Forcing to game, at least a king or two queens.

Your modest hand becomes plenty for game, when partner opens a strong two bid. In order, you show that, you have values, heart support, and a club control. (Your partnership cue bids in the Italian style, cheapest first or second round control.)

Partner keeps going over your 4 ♥ bid. What now?

**Board 9**West Deals
N-S Vul



My partner, Gary Schwartz, made a great bid of  $5 \diamondsuit$ , showing the third round diamond control that I needed. His  $4 \heartsuit$  bid had already denied any further first or second round control.

Because I could now count 12 tricks (2 spades, 5 hearts, 3 diamonds & 2 clubs), I bid the fine slam. Had I been absolutely sure Gary had the  $\Diamond$  Q, and not a doubleton, I would have bid 6 NT -- safer and 10 points better in this matchpoint event. In turn, Gary also could not bid 6 NT, since I might have had some other winner than the  $\clubsuit$  K (West's double asked for a club to be led).