

# Robot NABC Slam - Problem

**Board 17**  
North Deals  
None Vul

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



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

West	North	East	South
<i>Robot</i>	<i>Robot</i>	<i>Robot</i>	<i>PeteM</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♠ <sup>1</sup>
4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	All pass	

1. Soloway jump shift: balanced, 1-suited, or 2-suited with diamonds.  
6 ♠ by South  
Lead: ♥ A

When holding all of a resource, such as the top three honors in partner's suit, be aggressive!

West leads the ♥ A and another heart, East following with the ♥ 7 and ♥ Q. Plan the play on this slam in the third and final session of the summer Robot North American Bridge Championship matchpoint pairs event. Be specific.

# Robot NABC Slam - Solution

**Board 17**  
North Deals  
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Robot</i>	<i>Robot</i>	<i>Robot</i>	<i>PeteM</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♠ <sup>1</sup>
4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	All pass	

1. Soloway jump shift: balanced, 1-suited, or 2-suited with diamonds.  
6 ♠ by South  
Lead: ♥ A  
Down 1 — NS -50

The key play is to discard the ♦ 2 on the ♥ K at trick two, not a club. Then we pull trump in however many rounds, and cash the top diamonds. If they split, we cross to the ♣ A and discard the losing club on the ♦ 9.

As you can see, the diamonds are 4-1, so we finesse in clubs instead. When the finesse loses, we are one down, along with better players who bid the slam.

However, had we lazily made the obvious club discard at trick two, we would likely be two down when the finesse loses, for a matchpoint bottom.

But wait! It's possible to recover from discarding a club, when the cards are as shown. When the diamonds don't break, play off all the trumps, to this position:

	♣ A Q 3	
	♦ J	
♣ 10 9 4	♣ K 8	
♠ 4		
♦ 2		
♣ J		

On the play of the last spade, East's best discard is the ♣ 8. Having played for the squeeze, it is correct to play to the ♣ A and make the slam -- after all, we are two down, if we finesse and East has bared the ♣ K. A veteran squeezer should guess before discarding on the ♥ K, who will have the ♣ K, if East (surely not West) has four diamonds.

Sorry, I cheated, swapping the ♣ K and ♣ 4 from the real deal. Discarding a diamond and then finessing the club was the actual winning line. Discarding a club and running a squeeze is an acceptable line. Discarding a club and finessing in clubs is worst.