

♠♥♦♣ GO FOR IT ♠♥♦♣

North deals and it's two passes to you:

S	euvid
♠	A6
♥	K9
♦	AK982
♣	KQ64

This is a very strong hand. Although the shape isn't particularly helpful, there are 19 HCP – 20 points in all.

Some would open 2NT despite the 2 doubletons. The pro is that this bid tells your partner you have specifically 20-21 points and that could dissuade him from passing with a minimum 5 points, leading to a game either in notrump or a suit.

The negative is that you get raised to 3NT and the opponents start with a Heart or Spade lead, which you can win, but leaves you open to their long running suit when you lose to the ♣A or ♦J.

It's much safer to make the normal 1♦ opening. The opponents are silent and your partner responds 1♥. Now you can show your strength and your shape all in one bid – the jump shift to 3♣. This is forcing to game and 3NT is still in the picture.

Your partner raises you to 4♣. This shows 4+ Clubs and 4 Hearts, with a maximum for his original pass – 10-12 total points.

With Clubs as trump, you have a 4-loser hand. It wouldn't take much for three of those losers to go away with one or two Aces, the ♦Q or the ♠K. It's not everyday you are dealt 20 points so you decide to go for it and rebid 4NT.

Partner rebids 5♣ which in your system announces 1 Ace. The probability is that it is the ♥A. But even if it is the ♣A, a Club slam is still possible. You raise to 6♣.

West leads the ♣J and you see this dummy.

N	Robot
♠	Q1092
♥	AQ2
♦	J7
♣	10985

West Leads: ♣J

S	euvid
♠	A6
♥	K9
♦	AK982
♣	KQ64

The lead is suspicious. Opponents don't normally lead an unsupported Jack of trump. But it is easier to handle than a Spade lead would have been.

You count 6 top tricks: 1 Spade, 3 Hearts and 2 Diamonds. You will get 3 more tricks once the ♣A is dislodged and the additional 3 tricks will have to come from the Diamonds.

East takes his ♣A on the first trick and switches to a Spade. You have to take your ♠A. You play the ♣K and as expected, West shows out, discarding an encouraging Spade. The Clubs have split 4-1, and it will take all of your Clubs to draw East's Clubs.

The only way to set up the Diamonds is to get a 3-3 split and to save a trump in the dummy to ruff the 3rd Diamond. This is only 36%. But it is your only chance.

You can afford to draw one more Club from East and then you must switch to the ♦AK and another Diamond, ruffing with North's last high trump. Miracles do happen. The Diamonds did divide evenly. You go right back to your hand with the ♥K and draw East's last Club. Now you can claim since your last two Diamonds are good.

This is the entire deal:

D		N Robot		W		N	E	S
5		♠ Q1092		P		P	P	1♦
		♥ AQ2		P		1♠	P	3♣
		♦ J7		P		4♣	P	4NT
		♣ 10985		P		5♣	P	6♣
				P		P	P	P
W Robot				E Robot				
♠ KJ754				♠ 83				
♥ J653				♥ 10874				
♦ 1043				♦ Q65				
♣ J				♣ A732				
		S euvid						
		♠ A6						
		♥ K9						
		♦ AK982						
		♣ KQ64						
				6♣ S		NS: 0 EW: 0		

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yvem7re8>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own. <https://tinyurl.com/2p3hmb44>

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