

♠♥♦♣ POWER OF THE VOID ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer and you have a 13 HCP hand with a very nice Club suit. You open 1♣.

S	South
♠	A72
♥	A765
♦	
♣	AJ10864

West overcalls 1♦ and your partner responds 2♦. This is a cue bid that promises Club support and an invitational or better hand.

East passes and it's back to you. You could rebid the Club suit, but it is more important to show your Hearts. If partner has Diamonds stopped, you might find a home in Notrump.

Partner jumps to 3NT. Now he is showing an opening strength hand with Diamonds and Spades stopped. What is your rebid? Do you pass or do something else?

Even though you have no indication of extra strength, it wouldn't take too much from your Partner to take 12 tricks. With 4 or 5 Clubs from him, you can count 8 top tricks if he has the ♣K. He would only need to supply 4 more tricks.

If you ask for Key Cards using the 4NT, the answer will be unreliable. First of all, Partner might mistake the 4NT as quantitative, asking him to bid 6NT if he has extra points. Second, even if he reports that he has 1 Key Card, you won't know if it is the ♣K or the useless ♦A. If you use a Gerber 4, you will only find out about his Aces, which doesn't help you at all.

The answer is Exclusion Blackwood. Jumping into a new suit, like 5♦, asks for Key Cards, excluding the ♦A if he has it. Because you are so high, the answer is given in steps. 1 or 4 Key cards would be represented by the first step – 5♥. 0 or 3 would be 5♠; 2 Key Cards without the ♣Q is 5NT; and 2 with the Queen is 6♣.

North rebids 5♥ showing the ♣K and you know he has Diamonds stopped because of his prior bid of 3NT. Your final bid is 6♣.

West leads the ♦K. Plan your play:

N	North
♠	KJ9
♥	QJ
♦	A986
♣	K953

West Leads: ♦K

S	South
♠	A72
♥	A765
♦	
♣	AJ10864

On the opening lead, you win Dummy's A and discard a Spade lower in your hand. You lead the ♣K, hoping Clubs break 2-1. If West shows out, you can finesse against the ♣Q at Trick 3.

Luckily, trumps do break 2-1 and you draw the last trump. You go to the Dummy in Spades and let the ♥Q ride. This loses to West's ♥K, but you can easily take the rest of the tricks by ruffing Diamonds and Hearts in both hands.

This is the entire deal:

	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ KJ9				1♣
	♥ QJ	1♦	2♦	P	2♥
	♦ A986	P	3NT	P	5♦
	♣ K953	P	5♥	P	6♣
		P	P	P	
W West		E East			
♠ Q6		♠ 108543			
♥ K104		♥ 9832			
♦ KQ10743		♦ J52			
♣ Q2		♣ 7			
	S South				
	♠ A72				
	♥ A765				
	♦				
	♣ AJ10864				
		6♣ S	NS: 0	EW: 0	

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2mpjhzfz>, 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.

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