


## Central Coast Slams by Leigh Matheson

The Open Swiss Pairs of the Brisbane Water Super Congress on July 26 served up a myriad of slam hands. Playing with Richard McAuliffe, we bid up most of the ones that were there to bid... and a few of the ones that were not.

Try your hand at this play problem:

All Vul  
Dealer East

♠ 7  
♥ 109764  
♦ AQ96  
♣ AK9



♠ AK94  
♥ AK853  
♦ 1052  
♣ 5

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
3 ♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	3 ♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass
3 ♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	4 ♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♦ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	6 ♥	All Pass

(1) Good heart raise  
(2) Cue bid, 1st or 2nd round control  
(3) 0 or 3 keycards

Contract: 6 ♥, South  
Lead: ♠6

You win East's ♠10 with the ♠A and cash the ♥A, on which West discards a spade.

### Plan the Play.

All will be well if West has the ♦K. So we assume East has it. When East has the ♦K the plan must be to execute an endplay. But there are two ways to go about it.

**Option A** is to ruff out one club and one spade and then exit to East with a trump. This will make if East has no more than 3 clubs.

**Option B** is to ruff out one club and two spades, in the hope that East makes a mistake and overruffs, endplaying herself. If East makes this mistake, the contract will make regardless of how many clubs everyone has, but will fail if East has only two spades, as East will overruff the first spade and then exit with a club.

West, with a heart void, might well have made a Michaels Cue bid with 5-5 distribution, and might well have made a takeout double with 5440 distribution. Also, East failed to double 2S, which she might have done with 3-card support. This leads me to believe that West actually has 6 spades. So I go with **option A**.

I cash another top trump, play the top clubs, discarding a diamond, and ruff a club, everyone following suit. Now I play the ♠K and ruff another spade. I am hoping that East makes the mistake of overruffing and endplaying herself. East does not overruff. In fact, East follow suit. So much for West having 6 spades! All I can do now is exit a trump and hope that East doesn't return a club. My luck is in. East returns a diamond and I claim the rest. The full deal:

♠ 7	♠ 1032
♥ 109764	♥ QJ2
♦ AQ96	♦ K743
♣ AK9	♣ Q63
♠ QJ865	
♥ —	
♦ J8	
♣ J108742	




♠ AK94  
♥ AK853  
♦ 1052  
♣ 5

Well... so much for West not having a 5-5 distribution. That looks like a fairly textbook Michaels Cuebid to me. Maybe they don't play that convention?



Richard and I also bid to 6♥ on this board:

E/W Vul	♠ KQ109		
Dealer West	♥ 10832		
	♦ A10		
	♣ AQ10		
♠ 763		♠ AJ42	
♥ J4		♥ 96	
♦ 87543		♦ K962	
♣ 982		♣ J74	
Lead: ♥4	♠ 85		
	♥ AKQ75		
	♦ QJ		
	♣ K653		


I drew two rounds of trumps, led a spade to the king and ace... and claimed. East is endplayed in three suits. Any suit that East returns gives away the twelfth trick, no matter how the cards are distributed.

Nick Jacob commented: "It's extremely rare to see a balanced hand endplayed as early as trick 3."

Trump leads against slams are usually not a good choice. The theory is that slams (particularly aggressively bid ones) may have 13 or 14 tricks but two losers. You want to try and cash your two tricks before they disappear. "Against a slam contract, attack!" – Benito Garozzo.

The trump lead on that deal may not have cost. But it did two boards later on this deal:



Nil Vul	♠ 3		
Dealer East	♥ KJ3		
	♦ J82		
	♣ AQJ832		
♠ K875		♠ 42	
♥ Q95		♥ 8762	
♦ A96		♦ K10543	
♣ 764		♣ 105	
Lead: ♣4	♠ AQJ1096		
	♥ A104		
	♦ Q7		
	♣ K9		

Bidding:

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	Pass
1NT <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass
3♣ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>(4)</sup>	All Pass

- <sup>(1)</sup> 15-17
- <sup>(2)</sup> Range Inquiry
- <sup>(3)</sup> Maximum
- <sup>(4)</sup> Good luck

Contract: 6♣, South  
Lead: ♣4

