

The optimal contract should be 4D (EW). Any contract that landed lower than 4D would be considered as not fully utilising your HCPs cum distribution or other terms by TNT (Total Number of Tricks). Of course, an overbid of 4H might cause unnecessary trouble to defend in 5D where you are not able to defeat.

On the other hand, 4H contract should go down on correct defense on an upper cut play for two down or wrong declarer play by misguessing the hearts or even wrong play in clubs. Those who have let their opponents made the 4H contract should have worked harder in their defense and those who have gone down in 3H should need to find a good reason for their poor declarer play and explain why they were so unlucky. Perhaps, all these haven't come to your mind yet. A final question is: Why was 4H only one down and 3H made? Was there nothing wrong with their play? Please have this hand in mind at your post-mortem. Let's see the possible bidding sequences and plays in heart contract:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1S	2H	Pass	Pass (3H)
3D (Pass)	Pass (4H)	Pass	3H
Pass	Pass (4H)	4D	Pass
Pass (5DX)			

Declarer play and defensive play in 4H:

♠J was the lead, covered by ♠K-♠A-♠10. West should continue with ♠Q! North ruffed with ♥7 then continued ♠6 to ♠Q to enter the dummy to play hearts. ♥4 from the dummy and you should put up your ♥K**(**didn't you?) when West followed with ♥8. In this case, your 4H should be just made. On the other hand, West should also jump up with ♥A**! when the ♥4 is played and try an upper cut play by playing the 3rd spade and the contract is likely to go down by two tricks.

Declarer play and defensive play in 3H:

As usual, ♠J-♠K-♠A-♠10, ♠Q-ruff, now ♥K from hand where you have only four losers namely, ♥A, ♥Q, ♠A and the ♠A. Hence, 3H just making. Was it the line that you had adopted at the table? Alternatively, you might be able to save yourself by ruffing high if you had entered dummy with club play i.e. ♠6-♠2-♠Q-♠7, ♥4-♥A-♥2-♥6, ♠2-♥K*! (high ruff to prevent from being over ruffed and East firing back a club for West to ruff - the setting trick.) Did you follow a similar line or a better line in declarer play and defensive play at the table?

NIGHTMARE IN 6D L L Wong

It was this hand played on 3rd September 2005 at NUSS Guild House in the League Cup Semi-final stage where many of the teams hit the rock while bidding all the way to the small slam in 6D. It was actually a good slam with very high percentage in making but it was a nightmare for

them. Let's look at the hand and results across the field to see what happened:

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

1. Poly	6D-2	Bridge Bears	6D-1
2. Bukit Timah (A)	6D-1	Bengal Aces	5D+1
3. NUSS Red	6DX-1	Bell	4H+1
4. Friend of Sheep	6D-1	Bozzetto (Rosso)	6D-1
5. SCBA (B)	6D-3	Bozzetto (Argento)	4H made
6. Bukit Timah (B)	4H C	CLRXY	6D-1
7. SICC (Blue)	2H+2	Japan Club	4H made
8. Hwa Chong	6D made	NUS (B)	6D-1
9. Parc D'Rakes	5D made		5H-1
10. SRC	4H made	IRAS	4H+1
11. LTA	4H made	SCBA (Lights)	6D-1

Half of the field landed in this beautiful 6D contract declared by North. Unfortunately, almost all of them gone down in this contract with the exception of the Hwa Chong Junior College team. In fact this contract is cold as the cards lie particularly after the double (Note: you have to alert at all time when you were playing a doubled contract. If it was not a Lightner double then he ought to have the missing trumps). The crucial play for this hand is to play ♠A at first diamond play on any lead from East.

1. If the lead was a spade: ♠2-♠A, ♠7-♠A, ♠A*(key play - this is the better chance than to establish your heart suit) to discover the diamond bad break and realise that club ruffing is not applicable, but East would be squeezed automatically (You have six diamonds, one or two spades, two clubs and two or three hearts) when East holds three or more hearts together with the spade holding.

2. If East led a club: ♠A, ♠3-♠10-♠Q-♠x, ♥3-♥A, ♠5-8, ♠K, ♠J-♠Q-♠K-♠A, ♠4-♠7.. where east would be squeezed at Trick 10.

3. The most troublesome lead will be the heart suit but seems to be quite unlikely as South would have bid it strongly. The play will be the same as if East had led a club, detailed above, but using the ♠A as entry to finesse the last diamond and play the same way as above.

Did the Hwa Chong team play the same way with one of the above? Or you have found a better line?