

North		NV	
♠ 10 9 7 6			
♥ K Q 7			
♦ 10 5			
♣ 10 8 7 3			
West	D NV	East	NV
♠ Q J 4 3		♠ K	
♥ J 10 2		♥ A 9	
♦ A J 8 6		♦ K Q 4 3 2	
♣ A J		♣ K Q 9 6 5	
South		NV	
♠ A 8 5 2			
♥ 8 6 5 4 3			
♦ 9 7			
♣ 4 2			
		HCPs	
		5	
		14 17	
		4	

Both our pairs did well on this board bidding to the top spot of 6 diamonds and gaining 86% of the match points.

Bidding minor slams at pairs requires good judgement. If you end up in 5 of a minor it's likely you will score poorly compared to others in 3NT.

Here is Don and Mark's auction:

W	E
1C (2+ clubs)	1D
1N (12-14 bal)	2D (game forcing checkback)
2S	3C
3D (setting the suit)	3H* (control showing cue)
4C* (cue)	4N (RKCB 1430)
5H (2 key cards, no QD)	6D

East's 3H bid shows slam interest. W has a maximum and good slam cards with great support for partners minor suits so co-operates with a 4C cue taking the partnership above 3NT. Most of the field played in 3N. 6N goes down 1.

North		V	
♠ A 6			
♥ K J 7 6 5 3 2			
♦ 10 8 5			
♣ A			
West	V	East	D V
♠ Q 8 7 5		♠ J 4 3 2	
♥		♥ A Q 4	
♦ K J 7		♦ A 4 3 2	
♣ K Q 8 7 5 3		♣ 9 2	
South		V	
♠ K 10 9			
♥ 10 9 8			
♦ Q 9 6			
♣ J 10 6 4			
		HCPs	
		12	
		11 11	
		6	

This hand was another that required sound judgement this time by East. North comes in with 3H after East has opened and West has responded. This is passed back round to West who doubles for take out. What should East do? It's tempting to bid spades now with a

likely 4-4 fit. EW can make 3S for +140 but 3HX drifts one off for +200. The winning action is to pass. Many EW pairs went on to bid the spade game and went for -100. Both our pairs scored well on this board. John and Malcolm did well to stop in 3S, Don and Mark defended 3HX.