Club Championship (double black points)

**Board 19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South</th>
<th>E-W Vul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 6 3</td>
<td>♦ 7 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ A K 10</td>
<td>♣ J 6 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Q 10 7 5 4 2</td>
<td>♢ K 5 4 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EW 7N; EW 7♣; EW 7♠; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; Par -2220

West | North | East | South |
---|---|---|---|
1 ♠ | 2 ♠² | 4 ♠³ | 5 ♠⁴ |
6 ♦ | All pass |

1. too many defects for 2♥ (bad suit, four spades, defensive minors)
2. weak
3. fit-showing game try
4. if you are going to save, do it immediately: give them the "last guess"
6 ♦ by West

While I did not play this week, I discovered these two deals from the score slips.

Getting to this 75% slam with only 26 high card points was worth a great score. The auction above is an example of how the slam might be reached. East might have tried 3♠, 3♥ or 3♠ instead of 4♠, either not playing fit-showing jumps, or wanting 3NT in the picture. The 50% 3NT is riskier than 6♦, but garnered 4 of 6 matchpoints, when it made seven.

The declarer in 6♦, drawing trumps immediately, misguessed and made only six. The declarer in 6♦ had more time to scope out the distribution and brought in the overtrick for a cold top.

Bottom score on this deal was letting East-West play 3♥, only +50, and one pair subsided in 4♦. Bidding the 25% grand that happens to make on this deal would have been foolishly greedy, risking the 5 or 6 matchpoints available at 6 of a minor.

- Pete Matthews