

vulnerable.

Before bidding, recall with 6-5 shape when a trump fit is found the hand's huge trick-winning potential is realized and now you can count how many tricks the hand is likely to make. This thinking is a key skill, as you graduate from counting points to counting tricks, enabling you to judge what contract you're likely to make.

West held:                   ♠ AQ10987  
                                   ♥ -  
                                   ♦ KJ985  
                                   ♣ A4

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
3♦	pass	?	

West correctly shows their second suit, do not rush to rebid your six card major, East may like your other suit. With 6-5 shape, West has huge trick winning potential with spades or diamonds as trumps, East is not keen on spades so try diamonds. West should rebid 3♦ but most club Wests mistakenly rebid 2♠.

Let's help East bid:       ♠ -  
                                   ♥ AK10982  
                                   ♦ A10632  
                                   ♣ 93

What does East bid over 3♦? Evaluating East's hand, 6-5 shape with AK and A in its long suits, East has a trick winning powerhouse once the trump fit in diamonds is found. Recall, "if you freely bid 4♣ or 4♦ raising partner's suit, you are telling partner slam is likely." East's best bid is 4♦ as East's evaluation tells them slam is likely.

♠ AQ10987	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;"> </td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ -	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ -		♥ AK10982										
♦ KJ985		♦ A10632										
♣ A4		♣ 93										

West	North	East	South
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
3♦	pass	4♦ (slam try)	pass
?			

West's bid? East thinks EW might make a slam in diamonds and West has a monster hand. West has an extra diamond (five not four) and first round control in every other suit. Bidding a direct 7♦ is justified, but West, if you want to ask for aces, do that and then bid 7♦. Bid 7♦.

The play in 7♦ is straight forward. An easy plan to make 7♦, is to focus on the East hand. Draw trumps in two rounds and ruff three hearts, if the 5<sup>th</sup> heart isn't high, the 6<sup>th</sup> heart will be high. And discard ♣3 on ♠A.

Club Results: At one table the auction went:

West	North	East	South
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
3♦	pass	5♦	pass
6♦	all pass		

East misjudged the trick winning ability of their 6-5 hand by jumping to 5♦ rather than bid 4♦, but West did evaluate their hand's trick winning ability and raised to 6♦. Well done to Merryn for raising 5♦ to 6♦ for a 93% score.

Summary:

Unbalanced hands, especially with ten or more cards in two suits (5-5, 6-4, 6-5 shapes) win many tricks if an "extra" trump fit is found. Fully investigate whether you have a trump fit in either suit, show your second suit. These shapely hands are trump hands, not NT hands.