

## Hand of the Day

### A question of Judgement

<u>Board</u> 24		♠ 7 2
West Deals		♥ 3 2
None Vul		♦ A K Q 10 9 5 4
		♣ A 10
♠ A K 10 8 4	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ Q 6 3
♥ K J 10 9		♥ A 6 5
♦ —		♦ J 8
♣ K 9 7 3		♣ Q J 8 6 5
		♠ J 9 5
		♥ Q 8 7 4
		♦ 7 6 3 2
		♣ 4 2

Two newer players to Akarana showed their mettle by bidding this excellent slam.

West will certainly open 1♠. The North player at most tables will make a simple overcall of 2♦. If that is the case East has a choice of calls. Some may like to show all round values with a double, others might bid 3♣ as a natural forcing bid, but most will have a mechanism to show an invitational raise probably with a 3♦ or possibly a 3♠ bid. I expect that was the most common option.

Is 3♣ a bit pushy here? Certainly you have neither the shape nor points to commit to game, but in a case like this with a good double fit it should lead to bidding the best slam of 6♣.

At most clubs South would keep silent, but this being Akarana at my table he ventured 4♦. Now West with a void has every reason to take a rosy view and should make a cuebid at least, possibly exclusion Blackwood if you have that option either after the spade raise or natural club bid.

In practice most E/W pairs settled for penalising a diamond contract by N/S at the 4, 5 or 6 level most often doubled.

Kinga Hajamsi and Andrew Michl were alone in bidding 6♠ and were perhaps unlucky to score a mere 5 imps as their teammates were doubled in 6♦.