

## SHBC Christmas Party

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SHBC had a very enjoyable Christmas party in the evening on Saturday 14 December – there was plenty to drink, great food, a President's speech, and the annual awarding of trophies.

Of course before that there was bridge – and one could be forgiven for believing that the dealing computer had also been imbibing the Christmas spirit(s) because some of the deals were extraordinary. Not only were there three 6-5 hands, there was a 7-5 and an extremely rare 7-6 hand, which has a probability of only 0.0056%.

This deal featured two double fits and generated a lot of action:

<b>BD: 21</b>	♠AT9	<b>Dlr: N</b>
	♥53	<b>Vul: NS</b>
	♦T8	
	♣AKT875	
♠J64		♠2
♥KJT962		♥A874
♦AQ5		♦K976432
♣3		♣2
	♠KQ8753	
	♥Q	
	♦J	
	♣QJ964	
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	N
		T
N	5 5	11
S	5 5	11 7
E	5 5	11
W	5 5	

North of course opens 1C but after that almost anything was possible. At our table East chose to ignore the 4-card heart suit and overcalled 3D. South bid 3S and West raised directly to 5D. With what I thought were 3 likely defensive tricks, I doubled, which stopped partner from bidding on at adverse vulnerability. However, the double turned out to be a very bad idea – the contract is glacially cold. So is 5H – and so is 5S, sadly ...

The range of results can be seen in the table overleaf:

Contract	Result	Score	Frequency
5♠ by NS	=	650	1
4♠ by NS	+1	650	2
3♠ by NS	+3	230	1
4♦ by EW	+2	-170	1
4♦ by EW	+3	-190	1
5♦ by EW	+1	-420	1
5♦ by EW	+2	-440	1
5♥ by EW	=	-450	1
5♥ by EW	=	-450	1
5♦X by EW	=	-550	1
5♥X by EW	=	-650	1

The board with the 7-6 hand was challenging in a different way. South will usually start with a 2NT opening showing a balanced 20-21 (or 22) hcp and West cannot resist overcalling in hearts, but North will now jump to 4S. At many tables, including ours, that was the end of the auction. Reaching 6S is difficult unless West decides to back in with 5C. As it turns out, slam in either diamonds or spades is unbeatable!

<b>BD: 22</b>	♠AJT8653	<b>Dlr: E</b>
	♥	<b>Vul: EW</b>
	♦T8764	
	♣3	
♠		♠9742
♥AKT8542		♥J93
♦		♦932
♣KT8742		♣A96
	♠KQ	
	♥Q76	
	♦AKQJ5	
	♣QJ5	
	♣♦♥♠	N
		T
N	6 6	5
S	6 6	10 5
E	5 6	20
W	6 6	

