

Today's deal was originally played nearly thirty years ago. It was reported by Alan Truscott in the New York Times on December 6, 1982.

Lightner Double Is Routine But It Won't Always Work

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

	♠ A Q J 6		
	♥ A Q 5 3		
	♦ Q 2		
	♣ A 10 4		
♠ 9 3	♠ 8 7 4	N	♠ 8 7 4
♥ 9 8 4 2	♥ K J 10 6	W	♥ K J 10 6
♦ 8	♦ J 10 9 7 5 4	E	♦ J 10 9 7 5 4
♣ K J 7 6 5 2	♣ —	S	♣ —
	♠ K 10 5 2		
	♥ 7		
	♦ A K 6 3		
	♣ Q 9 8 3		

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Opening Lead: ♣6

About a half century ago the late Theodore Lightner proposed a new convention to his partner, Ely Culbertson. A double of a slam, he suggested, should call for an unusual lead. The first time it came up some disaster ensued, and Culbertson angrily refused to have anything more to do with it.

Other players were willing to give the Lightner double a more thorough test, and it became part of the standard bidding repertory. It often gives a vital clue to the opening leader, but there are some occasional failures. One of them occurred on the diagramed deal, although the double did get the defense off to a good start.

Six spades was a reasonable contract for North-South, and was reached with a string of cue-bids beginning with four diamonds. The play would not have been easy after a neutral lead, but when East doubled West found the club lead.

The double tends to ask for dummy's first suit, in this case clubs. West had to ask himself why East had not doubled the cue-bid of six clubs. He concluded correctly that East feared that six clubs might be a playable contract.

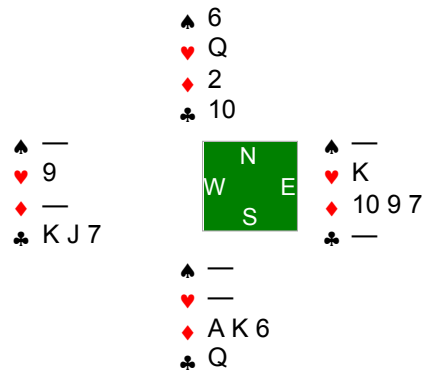
South was Rich Waugh, who learned the game in Westbury, L.I., and is now an active organizer and teacher in Craig, Colo. He knew he had run into a bad club split, but had to guess whether West had led a singleton or whether East was void. He guessed right by playing low from dummy, and East ruffed and led the diamond jack.

One plan was to ruff three hearts in the closed hand, but this would have failed for lack of entries. Instead, South planned to ruff twice in his hand and hope for a squeeze. He won the diamond lead with his queen, cashed the heart ace and ruffed a heart. He then led a trump to the jack and ruffed another heart with the king.

Lead-Directing Doubles

by [Rich Waugh](#)

When he then led to the queen of spades and cashed the ace he reached this position:



On the last trump East had to surrender. In the rather unlikely event that West had begun with the diamond protection he would have been squeezed in the minor suits. South was due to fail only if East held the diamonds and West the heart king.