Successful Slam Bidding: Week 2

| Board 1 North Deals None Vul | ♦ J872 ♥ 8 • 10974 • K963 | |
|---|--|---|
| ♠ 9 6 4♥ A K Q♠ A K J 8♣ A 7 2 | N W E S | ♦ A K 10 ♥ J 10 9 5 3 ♦ 5 3 ♣ Q 10 4 |
| | ♣ Q 5 3♥ 7 6 4 2◆ Q 6 2 | |

♣ J85

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------|-------------|-------|
| | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♦! | Pass |
| 3 v | Pass | 3 NT | Pass |
| 4 🔻 | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 * | Pass |
| 6 y | All pass | | |

West begins with 2 NT and gets transferred to ♥s. West does not "Super Accept" as Partner may have nothing. East rebids 3 NT and West naturally returns to ♥. With a combined 31+HE, East issues a *Slam Invite* with 4 ♠. West has a fabulous hand opposite a *Slam Invite*. Holding all the KeyCards and the Q, West bids slam.

HE: 21+13=34 (♥)

Lesson: (i) With a combined 30+HE plus a fit, issue a *Slam Invite*; (ii) Do not Super Accept without 4+cards; (iii) A source of tricks in a square hand is often an issue. **Questions**: (a) If East's black suits were switched, how would you bid the hand? (b) Why doesn't West bid 5 NT showing all the KeyCards? (c) As West, why not begin with 2 *?

| Board 2 East Deals N-S Vul | ★ K J 5▼ A K 6◆ K 3♣ A K 8 | | |
|--|---|--------------|------------|
| ♠ Q 9 6 2♥ 8 4◆ Q 10 2♣ Q 9 5 2 | N W S ♣ 107 ♥ QJ10 • A97 ♣ 4 | A 8 8 € 7 7 | 5 5 4 |
| West | North | East Pass | South 3 🕶 |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 * |
| Pass | 6 ♥ | All pass | |

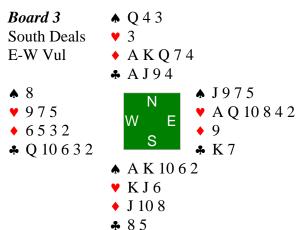
With 2 ♣ opening values and all outside suits stopped, North can proceed directly to *KeyCard Ask*. If South has none, North will stop in 5 ♥. Here North settles for slam, missing one KeyCard.

HE: 22+14=36 (♥)

Lesson: (i) After a 3-level preempt by Partner, an immediate 4 NT is *KeyCard Ask* for Partner's suit; (ii) With 10+cards, you don't need to ask about the trump Q. **Questions**: (a) At matchpoints, should

North bid 6 NT?

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| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------|----------|-------|
| | | | 1 🛦 |
| Pass | 2 • | 2 🔻 | Pass |
| Pass | 2 🛦 | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 🔻 |
| Pass | 6 A | All pass | |

South opens a R20 hand, Passes over interference and jumps to game emphasizing a minimum opening bid. North however recognizes the partnership is in the *Slam Zone* with an HE 19. Having a good source of tricks and outside controls, North uses *KeyCard Ask* and bids the slam missing only one.

HE: 19+13=32 (♠)

Lesson: (i) An outside 5+card suit with good trick-taking potential is a encouraging sign in the *Slam Zone*; (ii) Interference doesn't "negate" a 2/1 auction; (iii) Raising a major rather than jumping to game is a *Slam Invite*.

Questions: (a) Should South bid 2 NT over 2 ♥? (b) Should South raise North's ♦ suit over 2 ♥? (c) Without the 2 ♥ overcall, what would South rebid?

| Board 4 West Dea Both Vul | _ | 5543 | |
|---|--|------|----------------------------|
| ♣ Q J 4 ?♥ A Q 1◆ K J♣ J | | S A | 7 IJ765 IQ9 IK 10 |
| | ♠ A 1♥ 4 3♦ 10♣ 9 7 | } | |
| West | North | East | South |
| 1 🛦 | Pass | 2 🔻 | Pass |
| 3 ♥ | Pass | 4 🚓 | Pass |

This hand has a trap: West issues a *Slam Invite* with 3 ♥, East responds with a ♣ *Control Bid* and West shows a ◆ control. East could bid 5 ♣ rather than 4 ♥ to show 1st and 2nd round control of ♣ and a ♠ problem. When East does no more than 4 ♥, announcing a ♠ problem, West respects Partner's decision.

4 💙

All pass

Pass

HE: 15+18=33 (♥)

4 •

Lesson: (i) Avoid using *KeyCard Ask* with a worthless suit, even when Partner has opened that suit; (ii) After making a *Slam Invite* and having nothing more to communicate, return to the agreed suit.

Questions: (a) Does East's 4 ♣ *Control Bid* show extra values, i.e., HE 15+? (b) Should East try *KeyCard Ask*, planning to stop in 5 ♥ if West only shows 1 KeyCard but going to slam if West shows 2 KeyCards?