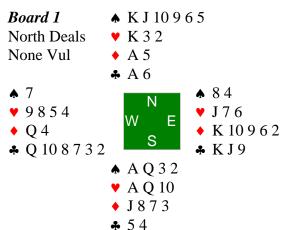
Successful Slam Bidding: Week 4



West	North	East	South
	1 🛦	Pass	2 NT!
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 💙
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 A
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 A
All pass			

After Jacoby 2 NT, North's 3 h bid shows extras and is a *Slam Invite*. Although only having a minimum, South cooperates by bidding a control. *KeyCard Ask* reveals all the KeyCards but the response to *Specific King Ask* is disappointing.

HE: 19+14=33 (♠)

Lesson: (i) After a *Slam Invite*, cooperate by bidding controls up the line, even with a minimum; (ii) Notice that initial, combined *Hand Evaluation* is only 29; subsequent HE is 33; (iii) Don't give up on a slam contract, give yourself the best chance. Also, don't fret and give your opponents an indication that the contract is in trouble.

Questions: (a) Which card in the South hand, when moved to a different suit makes the slam "cold"? An example which would not help, is moving the ◆ 3 to the ♣ suit.

Board 2 East Deals N-S Vul A K A K A K 4 2 A K 8 6 A A S 2	 ↓ J 10 9 ↓ 10 7 ↓ J 7 5 4 ♣ J 3 N W S ♠ Q 8 7 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ 9 3 ♣ K 10 	4 2 ♠ 6 5 3 ♥ Q J 3 ♠ Q 10 ♣ Q 7 6	3
West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
2 🚓	Pass	2 •	Pass

Pass Pass

2 A Pass

2 NT Pass

3 Pass

3 NT Pass

4 NT All pass

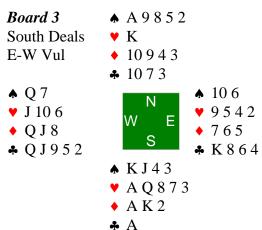
Although holding a prime HE 26, West should invite slam, not unilaterally bid it (as was done when this hand was played in a regional event). Without a fit, making a 4 NT slam invite is enough.

HE: 26+7=33 (NT)

Lesson: (i) Balanced hands typically need HE 33+ to make 6 NT; (ii) After a 2 ◆ response, 2 NT is unlimited; (iii) When a natural 3 NT is raised to 4 NT, it is a quantitative slam try.

Questions: After a 2 \$\infty\$ opening: (a) and a quantitative 4 NT by Opener, what is the minimum HE to raise to 6 NT? (b) Opener bids 3 NT after a transfer to a major, what is the minimum HE for a 4 NT *Slam Invite* by Responder?

Successful Slam Bidding: Week 4



West	North	East	South
			2 🚓
Pass	2 •	Pass	2 🔻
Pass	2 🛦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 💙	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 🚓	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 A	Pass	6 ♠
All pass			

When North shows 4+♠, South makes a *Slam Invite* by going slow. North makes a *Control Bid* in ♥, showing more than a minimum for the initial 2 ♦; this does not change the agreed trump suit. South does not investigate for a Grand Slam off the ♠ Q.

HE: 10+25=35 (♠)

Lesson: (i) Fitting honors are important to taking tricks; (ii) After major suit agreement, subsequent suit bids are *Control Bids*, not an offer to play in the suit bid; (iii) In a 2 ♣ game forcing auction, do not pass over a 4-card ♠ suit when Opener shows ♥s unless you have 4+card ♥ support or weak ♠ and 3-card support.

Questions: (a) What does the 4 ♥ bid tell South? What would North (Responder) bid over 3 ♠: (b) Lacking the ♥ K? (c) If the ♥ K was the ♣ K, leaving a small singleton ♥ and ♣ KT7?

Board 4 West Deals Both Vul	♣ J 10 9♥ Q 10 3◆ 8 6 3♣ 9 7 4					
▲ A 8 6 3	N	→ K75	5 2			
y 9	w N	ĕ A J 7	764			
 ◆ A K Q J 7 	⁷ 2	→ 5				
♣ K 5	3	♣ A 8 3	3			
	♠ Q 4					
	∨ K 8 5					
	10 9 4					
♣ QJ1062						
West	North	East	South			
1 ♦	Pass	1 🔻	Pass			
1 ♠	Pass	4 ^	Pass			
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦ ¹	Pass			
5 Y	Pass	$5 \triangleq^2$	Pass			
6 ♠	All pass					

East's 4 \(\bigsip \) jump to game shows HE 13-16. It is not a "close-out" if West has HE 19+. Here West envisions a Grand Slam with the right cards in East's hand. Upon finding the the trump Q missing, West stops at slam.

HE: 21+15=36 (♠)

1. 3 or 0 KeyCards 2. Don't have Q

Lesson: (i) Some jumps to game are not a "close-out" if partner has *Slam Zone* extras; (ii) After a *KeyCard Ask* response of 5 ♣ or 5 ♠, the next step is *Q-Ask*; (iii) With an 8-or 9-card fit; do not bid a Grand off the Q. Questions: (a) Should West jump to 2 ♠? Is 1 ♠ forcing? (b) Should East splinter in ♦ rather than jumping to 4 ♠? (c) Should West consider 6 NT playing matchpoints?