

## Successful Slam Bidding: Week 4

**Board 1**

North Deals	♠ K J 10 9 6 5		
None Vul	♥ K 3 2		
	♦ A 5		
	♣ A 6		

  

♠ 7			♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 5 4	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             N W     E S           </div>		♥ J 7 6
♦ Q 4			♦ K 10 9 6 2
♣ Q 10 8 7 3 2			♣ K J 9

  

♠ A Q 3 2			
♥ A Q 10			
♦ J 8 7 3			
♣ 5 4			

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

After Jacoby 2 NT, North's 3 ♠ 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	♠ J 10 9 4		
N-S Vul	♥ 10 7		
	♦ J 7 5 4 2		
	♣ J 3		

  

♠ A K			♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ A K 4 2	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             N W     E S           </div>		♥ Q J 3
♦ A K 8 6			♦ Q 10
♣ A 9 2			♣ Q 7 6 4

  

♠ Q 8 7			
♥ 9 8 6 5			
♦ 9 3			
♣ K 10 8 5			

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	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 ♣ 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

**Board 3**

South Deals	♠ A 9 8 5 2												
E-W Vul	♥ K												
	♦ 10 9 4 3												
	♣ 10 7 3												
	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S				
	N												
W		E											
	S												
♠ Q 7		♠ 10 6											
♥ J 10 6		♥ 9 5 4 2											
♦ Q J 8		♦ 7 6 5											
♣ Q J 9 5 2		♣ K 8 6 4											
	♠ K J 4 3												
	♥ A Q 8 7 3												
	♦ A K 2												
	♣ A												

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♠	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	♠ J 10 9												
Both Vul	♥ Q 10 3 2												
	♦ 8 6 3												
	♣ 9 7 4												
	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S				
	N												
W		E											
	S												
♠ A 8 6 3		♠ K 7 5 2											
♥ 9		♥ A J 7 6 4											
♦ A K Q J 7 2		♦ 5											
♣ K 5		♣ A 8 3											
	♠ Q 4												
	♥ K 8 5												
	♦ 10 9 4												
	♣ Q J 10 6 2												

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
6 ♠	All pass		
1. 3 or 0 KeyCards			
2. Don't have Q			

East's 4 ♠ 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 trump Q missing, West stops at slam.

**HE:** 21+15=36 (♠)

**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?