

Interesting hand 4 : Board 20 Monday 27th February

The message is not getting home! Here is another hand where a slam is available but only 3 pairs bid it and one of these in the wrong suit! Of the other two one went off.

Here W should pass. He is vulnerable and too weak for 2H. N will surely open 1C with S responding 1S and already aware that a slam may be there. He has a 4 loser hand opposite an assumed 7. All that is needed apparently is to find a fit.

Dir: West
Vul: All

♠ K 5 2
♥ Q 6
♦ A 6
♣ K Q 10 8 6 2

Optimum
NS +1430

♠ 7 4
♥ J 10 9 7 4 2
♦ J 4 3
♣ 7 3

WEST
EAST
SOUTH

NORTH
20
SOUTH

♠ 9 8 3
♥ A 8 3
♦ Q 9 8
♣ J 9 5 4

14
2 7
17

♠ A Q J 10 6
♥ K 5
♦ K 10 7 5 2
♣ A

	♠	♥	♦	♣	N
N	5	5	1	6	5
S	5	5	1	6	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

N will now need to decide between 2C, 2S or 3S. Of course, the latter would represent his own LTC but he does not have 4 spades and the bid looks a bit dangerous. With what may turn out to be a spade fit 2S is attractive. The downside is the risk of declaring in spades with only 7 cards in the suit. Of course, the “normal” requirement is to have 4 or more cards in support when the pair are playing 4 card majors. However, it can be better to support with 3 cards only if there is no other good bid. This is most common when partner opens 1S and you have 3 of the suit and your only other bid is a “dustbin” 1NT. 2S may well be best so long as your partner is aware that you may only have 3 card support. I think this is similar although I would not argue against 2C.

After 2S is there any reason not to go to 4NT? I think not. Cue bidding will not add much as what S needs to know is how many aces N has not where they are. Further 4Cs risks confusion. Whatever form of Blackwood is being used S will find N with one ace and, if keycard is used, either both aces or one and the KT.

Everything now suggests 6S and this should be S’s bid.

If N replies 2C, S will bid 3D which is forcing and N is likely to bid 4S leading into Blackwood as above.

It may pay to look at the play. Probably the safest lead from W is a trump which is unlikely to give anything away. This should be taken in hand. AC follows with a diamond to the Ace and a club Ruff (high is safest). Now take the trumps ending in dummy to run the clubs throwing 3 losing diamonds and a heart losing AH at the end for 12 tricks. Note that there are entry problems if you rely on a 3:3 club break.

The message is there again. As soon as a slam looks possible you should ensure that the bidding remains open so that it can be investigated.