

Splinters Recap – Hands from the Talk

♠ AK65
 ♥ AK6543
 ♦ 65
 ♣ 2
 ♠ J9
 ♥ 972
 ♦ K974
 ♣ K943
 ♠ 83
 ♥ QJ10
 ♦ 1032
 ♣ QJ1065
 ♠ Q10742
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AQJ8
 ♣ A87

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	4N ⁽³⁾	Pass	5♠ ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	5N ⁽⁵⁾	Pass	6♠ ⁽⁶⁾

1 *Splinter raise, extra values (17+, say), 4card spade support*
 2 *Ace-showing cue bid* 3 *Roman Key Card Blackwood*
 4 *Two of the five “aces” plus the queen of trumps*
 5 *Any side suit kings?* 6 *No*

Over 5♠ North might just bid the grand slam. That’s a tad pushy as it requires declarer to set up the heart suit and be able to discard three diamonds from the South hand. Here with the hearts breaking 3-3 thirteen tricks *will* roll in – five spades, five hearts, the minor suit aces and a club ruff (that’s provided declarer doesn’t finesse ♦Q if a diamond is led; then twelve’s the limit).

♠ J9
 ♥ 1095
 ♦ 1075
 ♣ KQ873
 ♠ KQ84
 ♥ AK7632
 ♦ 32
 ♣ 4
 ♠ A1076
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ AKQJ4
 ♣ 52
 ♠ 532
 ♥ J8
 ♦ 986
 ♣ AJ1096

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass
4N ⁽³⁾	Pass	5♥ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

1 *Game values, shortage in clubs and 4card spade support*
 2 *Ace-showing cue bid* 3 *Roman Key Card Blackwood*
 4 *Two of the five “aces” without ♠Q*

Once East shows the ace of diamonds, West can assume captaincy of the auction because of the good quality of his heart suit. It would also be plausible for West to cue the ace of hearts over 4♦ and *East* will then launch into RKCB. There are no problems in the play. The spades break kindly and there will be thirteen tricks unless South leads ♣A (both of declarer’s clubs can be ditched on dummy’s hearts; or one club is thrown and the other ruffed in dummy once dummy’s club has been pitched on East’s third winning diamond).