


Sometimes more is Less - Norman's Notes No.4

An unbidable slam

Remarkably, these fairly unexciting East-West hands can produce 12 tricks in spades and even in no-trumps, thanks to the fortunate defenders' holdings in three suits. (Diamonds break 6-1 but that does not matter). In particular, South possesses the queen and knave of spades, and North's eight falls in two rounds. Hurrah for West's seven. Try it.

Board 4: May 3rd : Dealer West, both vulnerable

	♠ 8 4	
	♥ Q 8 7 6 5 3	
	♦ 8	
	♣ Q 9 7 3	
♠ A K 7 3 2		♠ 10 9 5
♥ 10 4		♥ A K J 9
♦ 4 3		♦ A K 9 5
♣ K 10 8 5		♣ 6 4
	♠ Q J 6	
	♥ 2	
	♦ Q J 10 7 6 2	
	♣ A J 2	

No-one could realistically be expected to (or should) bid a slam, but some did not reach game. If South overcalls in diamonds (see below), East's rather good holding in that suit should aid rather than hinder EW's bidding. The main issue is whether to play in spades or no-trumps. These are possible sequences:

pass - pass - 1♥ - 2♦/3♦; - 2♠/3♠ - pass - 3NT/4♠ - all pass.

pass - pass - 1♦ - pass (looking surprised) - 1♠ - pass - 2♥ (a reverse) - pass -
2NT - pass - 3NT - all pass.

At the tables, Easts played in 3NT+1 twice

West's in 2♠+2, 2♠+4 and 4♠+1.