

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 23/01/24 Hand No. 4

Dlr: West

Vul: Game all

Bidding

N	E	S	W
2C*	P	2NT	P
3C	P	3D	P
3NT	P	4C	P
4D*	P	4NT*	P
5D*	P	5H*	P
5NT*	P	6S*	P
7NT	P	P	P

How to Play

On Tuesday evening there were three good slams available, but mostly we failed to bid them. Here are those three with suggested bidding sequences as to how they may be bid.

North's Hand:
♠ A 2
♥ 9 5
♦ K Q
♣ A K Q J 10 6 5

South's Hand:
♠ 10
♥ Q J 10 8 7 2
♦ 10 9 8 4 3
♣ 8

Bidding Sequence:
N: 2C*
E: P
S: 2NT
W: P
N: 3C
E: P
S: 3D
W: P
N: 3NT
E: P
S: 4C
W: P
N: 4D*
E: P
S: 4NT*
W: P
N: 5D*
E: P
S: 5H*
W: P
N: 5NT*
E: P
S: 6S*
W: P
N: 7NT
E: P
S: P
W: P

This hand was possibly the most difficult of the three to get to the correct contract which is seven no trumps with the fourteen top tricks. We would all hope to at least reach a small slam. What do you open with the north hand? You have a guaranteed nine tricks yourself if clubs are trumps, so I would open a strong Acol two clubs and rebid three clubs which gets the hand off your chest. South with a weak no trump hand can now already see that their side has enough values for a slam to be bid. A two no trump response shows some of those values, then three clubs and three diamonds are natural. North now bids three no trumps as their partner should be the one in charge. If you are a person who is in tune with your partner you may want to try and bid this hand slowly as I have detailed above. If not, then I suggest that a practical bid of six no trumps is a good alternative and this would have scored very well on the evening.

As for the sequence above. After north's 3NT bid a grand slam bid may still be possible. A simple immediate raise to four no trumps should be an invitational bid, so you need to agree partner's clubs before bidding Blackwood. You will always go back to no trumps later on. After partner cue bids four diamonds you carry out your plan and find out that partner has three keycards and when you ask for the queen of trumps you also learn they have the queen plus a red king. So one last try, you cue bid you king of spades. Now it's over to partner to add up how many tricks you can make. As you are making a grand slam try your side must have all of the aces, so partner has those two plus the king of spades which they have just shown. So north can count seven club tricks, two spade tricks, one heart trick and three diamond tricks. That makes thirteen.

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Game Tuesday Evening 23/01/24 Hand No. 15

Dlr: South

Vul: N/S vul

Bidding

N	E	S	W
		P	1NT
P	2C*	P	2H
P	3C	P	3S
P	4C*	P	4D*
P	4S	P	4NT*
P	5S*	P	6S
P	P	P	

How to Play

After a weak no trump opener east has an easy stayman response hoping to find that partner has four card spade support. After the two heart response the three club bid is natural and forcing showing clubs in addition to spades. West shows their spade support and east can see that a slam may be possible. With a minimum hand they would simply raise to game, so four clubs must be a cue bid with slam ambitions. West cue bids four diamonds and east not sure they are not missing the ace and king of hearts signs off knowing their partner may be able to bid on. West, with an absolute maximum should now trust that their partner knew what they were doing when they made the four club slam try and bid Blackwood. The five spade response showed two key cards so west bid the slam. Twelve tricks made when the trump finesse lost.

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

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 23/01/24 Hand No. 17

Dlr: North

Vul: Love all

Bidding

N	E	S	W
P	1S	P	2NT*
P	3NT*	P	4C*
P	4H*	P	4NT*
P	5C*	P	5D*
P	6H*	P	6S
P	P	P	

How to Play

We should all be playing a Jacoby 2NT response to a one of a major suit opening to show a good high card raise in that major. It is so useful as it gives you chance to investigate slam before the bidding gets too high. After a 2NT bid modern style is for the opener to show a singleton if they have one, rebid their suit if they are minimum with no singleton or bid 3NT if they are fifteen plus points with no singleton. In this auction west knew their partner had the last option and that slam was a possibility. Two cue bids followed and west now knew they were not missing both the ace and king of hearts. Roman Keycard Blackwood followed and east showed one keycard. The five diamond bid now asked partner if they had the queen of trumps and six hearts showed the queen plus the king of hearts. Missing one ace a final contract of six spades was enough. South tried their best by leading a club, but declarer could win, draw trumps then cash the ace and king of hearts before crossing to dummy for a club discard on the queen of hearts. A happy east now conceded the ace of diamonds to make their twelve tricks.

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