

Get the Best out of this Hand

Game Tuesday Evening 15/07/25 Hand No. 10

Dlr: East

Vul: Game all

Bidding

W	N	E	S
		P	1H
P	4NT*	P	5D*
P	5S*	P	5NT*
P	7H	P	P
P			

W	N	E	S
		P	1NT
P	2D*	P	3H*
P	4NT*	P	5D*
P	5S*	P	5NT*
P	7H	P	P
P			

♠ K

♥ A J 10 4 2

♦ A K 10 3 2

♣ K Q

♠ 10 8 6 3

♥ 8 7 5

♦ J 9 8 7

♣ 6 2

♠ Q J 9 7 5

♥ 6

♦ 6 5

♣ J 10 8 7 3

♠ A 4 2

♥ K Q 9 3

♦ Q 4

♣ A 9 5 4

N

W

E

S

How to Play

There were some very exciting hands last Tuesday evening. It is rare that every table bids a slam on a particular hand and it nearly happened on three different deals during the evening.

My thanks go to Roger Eaton who highlighted the hand above where every table did reach slam and half of those reached the grand slam. You pick up the north hand and think how on earth will I manage this huge two suiter and then partner opens the bidding! I've listed two possible sequences above. The first for those playing a weak no trump and the second for those playing a strong no trump.

The weak no trumpers find their heart fit immediately and north can see that the important cards that are missing are the two black Aces and the KQ of trumps. Playing Roman Keycard Blackwood you can check for those cards very easily. The five diamond response shows zero or three keycards out of the four aces and the king of trumps. You yourself have twenty points, so for an opening bid partner must surely have three of those keycards. Now five spades asks for the queen of trumps and five no trumps shows the queen without any outside kings. So far so good. Could we have a diamond loser? It is possible, but partner may have the queen of diamonds or a doubleton diamond or even a black side suit which may provide some discards. So the grand slam looks odds on and may even make some of the time with the double diamond finesse. So it's time to be brave and bid the grand slam.

The strong no trumpers need an extra round of bidding. After north transfers it is common practice that the no trump opener should break the transfer with four card support. So three hearts here shows a minimum hand with four trumps. The remainder of the auction is the same as for the weak no trump pairs.

Roger and his partner Ted even demonstrated another way of bidding the grand slam. North responded two no trumps to south's one heart opener showing a good heart raise. They then exchanged some cue bids where south showed both black aces before north jumped to five no trumps (a grand slam force) asking partner if they had two of the top three heart honours. South had an easy seven heart bid. So well done.

So tip of the day – one of the few conventions that you really need to play is Roman Keycard Blackwood as it can make things so much easier when you are investigating a slam.