

Bidding & Playing Slams

Patrick, March 2019

PART 1

Key Issues in Bidding Slams

SLAM BIDDING

- We don't bid enough slams
 - a making slam is not the same as a GOOD slam
- We need to recognise slam zone
 - we must take our time, be honest with partner
- When bidding small slam, consider a grand
 - again, taking your time

SLAM BIDDING

- The most important tool is

SPLINTERS

- Can apply in all situations where you agree trumps ...

AGREEING THE FIRST SUIT BID

- Standard use of splinters
 - DOUBLE JUMP over opening bid
 - some play single jump as “mini-splinter”
 - vital : number 4 on best conventions

IN AGREEING SECOND BID SUIT

- Same pattern – unnecessary jump
 - more often now a SINGLE jump
 - just ask – is simple bid forcing
 - if so – then jump is splinter (else double jump)
- Agreeing the third bid suit
 - exactly the same pattern (but only in 4th suit)

AFTER AGREEING FIRST SUIT

- After raise of major (1M-P-2M)
 - new suit usually strength/length game try
 - so jump is splinter
- Similarly after 1M-P-2N (Jacoby)
- Same applies after raise of minor
 - but GT priority is keeping 3N in the picture
- After jump raise of a major : no space
 - use 3N to deny a splinter, so that ...
 - any suit bid shows splinter

AFTER AGREEING SECOND SUIT

- Major agreed : suit-1M-2M
- Major agreed : suit-1M-3M
 - both exactly as for 1M-raise
 - artificial NT bid allows opener to show shortage
- Minor suit agreed : 1M-2m-3m
 - first focus is when to bid 3N
 - need to jump for splinter

AFTER AGREEING SECOND SUIT

- When transfers are involved ...
- $1N - 2\spadesuit - 2\heartsuit - 3\clubsuit - 3\heartsuit$ (forcing)
 - (most people) show-er bids out shape
 - here 3S would imply 3514 shape
 - promises shortage in the unbid suit
 - 3N bid would deny any shortage

AGREEING THE THIRD SUIT

- Direct raises NF
- Only suit left for a jump is the 4th suit
 - relatively rare
 - often have to bid 4th before support

BIDDING EXERCISE 1

♠ KQJ8

♠ AT532

♥ AJ652

♥ Q982

♦ AJ9

♦ 5

♣ Q

♣ A42

DEALER
WEST

w	E
1♥	4♦
4N	5♠
7♥	P

BIDDING EXERCISE 2

♠ AKQ96

♠ T543

♥ J7

♥ QT84

♦ AQT

♦ 5

♣ QT5

♣ AKJ9

DEALER
WEST

w	E
1♠	4♦
5♦	5♠
P	

BIDDING EXERCISE 3

♠ AK84

♥ AJT7

♦ AJ62

♣ 5

♠ T6

♥ K84

♦ KQT5

♣ AQJT

DEALER
WEST

w	E
1♥	2♣
2N	4N
6♦	P

BIDDING EXERCISE 4

♠ A84

♠ 9

♥ AKQ53

♥ 76

♦ A753

♦ KT2

♣ Q

♣ AKJT654

DEALER
WEST

w	E
1♥	2♣
2♦	4♣
7♣	P

THE END OF THE DAY

Questions on anything ?

Fill in feedback sheets