

19/04/2021 Hand of the Week 60: 7NT twice!

I have had the pleasure of making 7NT twice in the last few weeks. Hand 1:

S	med029
♠	AK96
♥	Q8
♦	KQ7
♣	A1052

Martin opens 1♥. There is no need to rush, so a simple 1♠ will suffice, Martin jumps to 3♠ showing a strong hand, 16-19 points and 6 losers. You have a 16 count and also 6 losers, so slam is a possibility.

There are 2 options here- you can either cue bid 4♣ showing the A♣ or go straight to blackwood. It would be helpful to know partners holding in hearts- if missing 1 Ace there is still a potential for 2 heart losers. There is a slight advantage here to cue bid. Over 4♣, if Martin bids 4♦ showing the A♦ you are no worse off, if he comes back 4♥ that would be useful information and give more confidence that the slam is on.

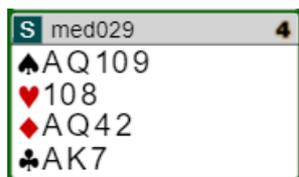
As it is I bid RCKB, Martin responds 5♠ showing 2 key cards and the Q♠. No harm asking for Kings now as we are going to 6♠. Martin shows 1 other King

The rule is you shouldn't bid 7 unless you can count 13 tricks- currently I can count 4 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 1 club- 9 tricks. If Martin holds K♥ that gives 3 more heart tricks. Could Martin hold 5 hearts? This is no guaranteed as with 4-4 in the majors you open hearts. OK well maybe I should bid 6NT, but I thought if he doesn't have 5 hearts we still have a finesse in clubs as a backup!

D	25	N	m27evans	W	N	E	S
		♠	Q1087		1♥	P	1♠
		♥	AKJ72	P	3♣	P	4NT
		♦	A10	P	5♠	P	5NT
		♣	93	P	6♦	P	7NT
				P	P	P	
W	Garrybaldi	E	hatterles				
♠	542	♠	J3				
♥	964	♥	1053				
♦	J652	♦	9843				
♣	QJ8	♣	K764				
		S	med029				
		♠	AK96				
		♥	Q8				
		♦	KQ7				
		♣	A1052				
				7NT S		NS: 0	EW: 0

Fortune favours the brave on this occasion! After a spade lead we take 4 spades, 5 hearts, 3 diamonds and the club. Martin perhaps slightly overbid with his response and we need favourable splits in both spades and hearts to make.

Hand 2:



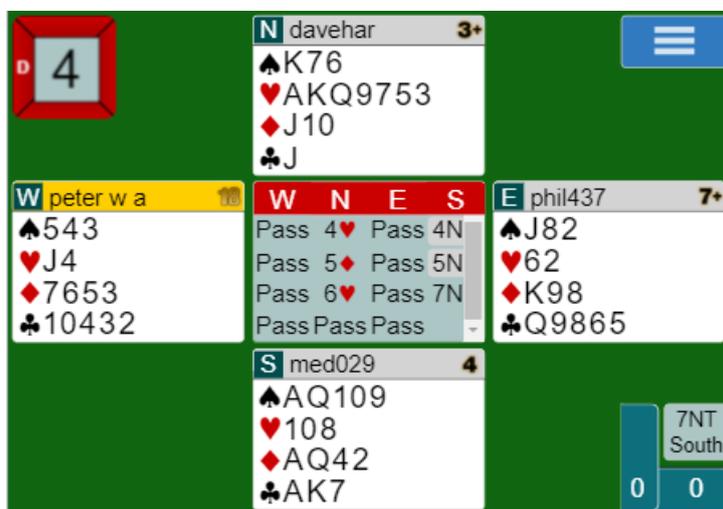
Partner open 1♥ again, with a 1♠ response, and then jumps to 4♥!

Partner must have a strong running heart suit at least 6 and more likely 7 cards. I've got everything else covered so lets start slam hunting again! I don't play any special systems with my father so just bid standard blackwood. Cue bids wouldn't really help here as the only suit I need to know about is hearts. RCKB would be very useful as you could get immediate information about the A, K and Q♥ in one bid.

As it is partner confirms he has the A♥, then I ask for Kings- partner showing 2- so must have K♠ or K♦

We should be sorted now, with 7 hearts, 2 clubs and 4 tricks in spades and diamonds

The full hand:



After a diamond lead I can run 16 tricks off the top!