

A big hand to welcome in the New Year!

S	med029
♠	Q842
♥	Q7
♦	KQ7
♣	AKQJ

Partner opens 1♥, and after a 1♠ response jumps to 4♠. Should you bid on?

Partners response suggests a distribution hand with reasonable values. Perhaps with a very strong hand they would have found another forcing bid to find out more about you hand. In any case, with the minor suits covered and 32+ points we should be looking for a slam it looks like a slam is possible, and there isn't much use in cue bidding at this point- the simplest option is to go to Blackwood- 4NT

Partner shows the missing 3 Aces.

We can now use 5NT to ask for Kings. The usual response is to show count 6♣ showing 0/4 kings, 6♦=1, 6♥=2, 6♠=3. If using key card blackwood you don't count the K trumps as that is covered in the initial responses to 4NT.

An alternative is to bid specific Kings up the line until you reach the slam- this can help if you need to find a specific King to get to a Grand Slam- so in this case with diamonds as the trump suit, the responses to 5NT would be 6♣ to show the K♣, and 6♦ to deny it. This system probably works better with cue bidding.

In this case partner shows 2 Kings. We can now count 4 clubs, 3 diamonds, 3 hearts and 3 spades- so 7NT is the final contract.

The full hand:

D	8	N Erika Pick	W N E S
		♠ AKJ5	P 1♥ P 1♠
W	hxxgordon	♥ AK86	P 4♠ P 4NT
		♦ A6	P 5♠ P 5NT
S	med029	♣ 632	P 6♥ P 7NT
			P P P
		E hxxmikesut	
		♠ 73	♠ 73
		♥ 109543	♥ 109543
		♦ J1085	♦ J1085
		♣ 104	♣ 104
		S med029	
		♠ Q842	
		♥ Q7	
		♦ KQ7	
		♣ AKQJ	
			7NT S NS: 0 EW: 0