

# Board of the Week 2

By Dick Chapman

This is the second in a continuing series of discussions by a non-expert. I will select boards which I think are interesting enough to spend some time studying.

Today, like last week, is another slam hand. The question is, can you find it? Only two of the nine pairs, not including my pair, did find it. Let's see why:

	♠AKJ74 ♥A9 ♦AQ9 ♣1032	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	D: E V: N	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	♠1098 ♥ ♦K652 ♣AKQ987	

You are South and open 1 club. West bids 2 hearts, North 2 spades, East 3 hearts. What is your call? Decide before reading further.

I made the call that ruined everything for our pair: four spades. Partner passed, perhaps because of the losers in diamonds and clubs. But what's my rush? I should bid four hearts. This is not necessarily a void, but North knows that it's a fit plus "something extra," otherwise South would just bid four spades. With 18 hcp opposite an opening with "something extra" North can use Roman Key Card Blackwood 4NT and can stop in 5 spades if necessary.

So, what's my call with one key card and a useful void? The answer is six hearts, which shows an odd number of key cards and a heart void. North bids six spades and when dummy appears hopes to make seven. Here's the full deal:

	♠AKJ74 ♥A9 ♦AQ9 ♣1032	
♠5 ♥KQ1086542 ♦1084 ♣6	D: E V: N	♠Q632 ♥J73 ♦J73 ♣J54
	♠1098 ♥ ♦K652 ♣AKQ987	

West's two heart overcall is reasonable. Some Wests might bid three hearts with the eight card length, and some might even stick their neck out with four hearts (especially at favorable colors, which isn't the case for this board). However, in second seat, you still haven't heard from partner, so you don't know who you are preempting. Also, you don't know you are sitting opposite 3 good hearts. Finally, you don't want to go back 500 if the opponents can only make game (or 450 or 480, for that matter). It's a real problem for West.

Suppose West overcalls three hearts. North is a forcing three spades, of course, and East has the same problem: don't go for -500 number opposite non-vulnerable opponents' simple game score! East will meekly pass. South will be in the same position: 4 hearts is the call, and the pair should get to slam.

For the brave 4 heart overcaller, what is North to do? Double would collect 500 and beat any pair who didn't bid slam. Indeed, four hearts doubled was the contract at one table, scoring 75%. If South bids five clubs over the double, it makes six for a very poor score of 420. But North might find the courage to bid six clubs. In bridge post-mortems, there are lot of if and might and maybe words tossed about. \*

In The Common Game, 53% of the pairs scored 480 while only 15% of the pairs scored 980. 3% were at 420 and 2% were at 920. 6% were at 500 (defending a doubled heart contract).

No one can make the par bid of 7NT: NS can score 2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, and 6 clubs.

See you next week.

\* In my 22-year on-line foursome we call ourselves Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda, and Mr. Hindsight. I'm the last of those four characters.