

Ask Dwight for September 9, 2018 Newsletter

Hi Dwight,

My question refers to **Board 9** played **Friday morning August 24**.

I was sitting South. Partner opened 1S and East pre-empted with 3D. Jacoby 2NT would have been my bid but that was taken away by East's bid. Slam was in my mind but how to get there? I had 4D, double or 3H as options (considered after the fact, of course).

I wanted to force my partner on but we played in 4 Spades. Only 2 pairs bid slam. What would be the best way to get to 6S?

Thanks,

Signed: Stymied

Hand diagram for Board 9:

North	West	East	South
♠ K J 8 6 5 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ ♣ A K 6 5 3	♠ 10 9 3 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ 9 7 2	♠ Q ♥ 4 ♦ A 9 8 6 5 3 2 ♣ J 10 8 4	♠ A 7 4 2 ♥ A Q 9 7 6 ♦ K J 10 ♣ Q

HCPs: North 14, West 3, East 7, South 16

[August 24 a.m. 0 – 300 game](#)

[Board 9](#)

Dwight's Response:

Hello Stymied,

An interesting problem for sure!

The first thing to try to do when bidding any hand is to let your partner first know the suit in which you want to play and secondly to tell them what sort of hand you have in terms of the level at which you can play.

Since you have an excellent fit in spades and you have a very good hand, a singleton and the KJx of diamonds behind the pre-empt, I would choose to Cue Bid 4D. That accomplishes both things. It says you have a very good hand (better than just bidding 4 Spades) and says you are interested in slam. North should cooperate by either Cue bidding his King of hearts or by bidding Blackwood or 1430 RKCB if that is your Ace-asking agreement. So, the auction would go:

1S-(3D)-4D-P

4NT-P-5H*-P

6S

5H*=2 Aces

There are other fancier ways to get to slam but that is fairly straight forward and accomplishes getting to the correct contract. You should not be in 7 Spades missing the Q of trumps with only a 9-card fit. (Even though it makes.)

If you have further questions, get back to me.

Regards,