

## Ask Dwight for September 6, 2020 Newsletter

**Dear Dwight,**

On hand 13 in Tuesday's game  
 East opened 1D, West bid 1H,  
 East bid 2C, West bid 3S, East  
 bid 3NT, West passed.  
 We made 7NT.

How do we get to slam?  
 Who takes the lead?

Thank you,  
 J

| <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">D</span><br/> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">13</span> </div>                                       | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">N</span><br/>                 ♠ J73<br/>                 ♥ 943<br/>                 ♦ Q87<br/>                 ♣ K983             </div>   | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <th style="width: 25%;">W</th> <th style="width: 25%;">N</th> <th style="width: 25%;">E</th> <th style="width: 25%;">S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥ P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♦ P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠ P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣ P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>3NT P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> |   | W | N | E | S | 1♥ P | P | 1♦ P | P | 3♠ P | P | 2♣ P | P | P | P | 3NT P | P |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|---|---|-------|---|
| W   | N  | E  | S |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |
| 1♥ P  | P  | 1♦ P   | P |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |
| 3♠ P  | P  | 2♣ P   | P |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |
| P   | P  | 3NT P  | P |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">W</span><br/>                 ♠ AK1052<br/>                 ♥ AQJ87<br/>                 ♦ K9<br/>                 ♣ 6             </div> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">E</span><br/>                 ♠ Q94<br/>                 ♥ K<br/>                 ♦ AJ1043<br/>                 ♣ AJ105             </div> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">S</span><br/>                 ♠ 86<br/>                 ♥ 10652<br/>                 ♦ 652<br/>                 ♣ Q742             </div>  |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |
|   |  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">3NT E</span>    NS: 0 EW: 0             </div>   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |
| Rewind   Previous   Next   Options   GIB   Play   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |
|   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |       |   |

**Hello J,**

Bidding slams is not always easy as you found out in this auction. Before giving you an auction to get you to slam, I can see that both you and your partner never really disclosed to the other that either had a good hand and a good fit in any suit.

- The jump to 3 spades by West was certainly showing game values but does not necessarily show 5 spades. It is extremely important to first discover the suit in which you should play and then to decide the level.
- The second error in the auction was the first call by Responder (West). With suits of equal length, the correct call is to bid the higher-ranking suit before the lower. That almost always guarantees that the first suit is at least 5 cards in length.

Here is the auction I would recommend, with explanations that follow each bid:

| <b>EAST (Opener)</b>   | <b>WEST (Responder)</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>1D</b>  | <b>1S</b>  |
| <b>2C</b>  | <b>2H</b><br>Forcing and may or may not show hearts, also guarantees at least 5 spades |
| <b>3S</b><br>Shows an above average hand with 3 spades, setting the trump suit | <b>4NT(RKCB)</b>   |
| <b>5S</b><br>Two controls with the Q of spades                                 | <b>5NT</b><br>Asking for Kings   |
| <b>6D</b><br>I have one King   | <b>6S</b><br>Since you are missing one King you would settle for 6 spades              |

Notice that Responder with 17 HCP takes control of the auction immediately after Opener has shown a little extra with a spade fit.

Also note that if Opener's King is the King of hearts you would be able to bid a grand slam of either 7 spades or 7 no trump. One way to determine which King our partner holds is to use 5NT as a "specific King" ask, rather than asking for the number of Kings. In such a case the response to West's 5NT asking bid would be 6H showing the King of hearts. West can now confidently bid the grand slam in spades.

If you have further questions, let me know.

**db**