

[Board 31 – Thursday, February 8, 2018](#)

Good Morning Dwight:

I played with A. Nonymous on Thursday, Feb 8. We missed a small slam on Board 31 and I was wondering if you could help us as we are trying to figure out where we went wrong in our bidding. (see hand below)

*I opened 1 diamond (West) with 6 diamonds and **16 points**, 4 spades, a singleton and a doubleton.*

Pass by North

*East who bid 1 heart has **16 points***

Pass by South

I bid 1 spade

Pass by North

B. Anonymous jumped to 3 NT

Pass by South

I passed as well and we missed a small slam

Neither one of us knew how big our hands were but we had 32 points and 4 pairs bid small slam but 3 pairs did not.

I was wondering if you could help us as to where we went wrong in our bidding as it's a shame that we missed a slam.

Thanking you in advance,

B. Nonymous

Hi B. Nonymous,

I can certainly understand your problem. I will give you a possible auction, but first a few comments-

1. East (A. Nonymous) underbid their hand as did you
2. The jump to 3NT denies having any 15 point hand or more.
3. With the information you received from east, I would not bid further with the west hand either.

So let's go back and have another auction which I will explain below.

North		West		East		South		HCPs	
	V	NV		NV		D	V		
♠	6 5 4 3	♠	A J 9 2	♠	K Q	♠	10 8 7		1
♥	10 6 5	♥	4	♥	A J 8 2	♥	K Q 9 7 3	16	16
♦	10 9 8 5	♦	A K J 6 4 2	♦	Q 7 3	♦			7
♣	J 10	♣	K 6	♣	A 4 3 2	♣	Q 9 8 7 5		

Auction:

1D - 1H

1S - 2C*

3D** - 4D***

4NT - 5S****

5NT - 6D*****

6NT

Explanations:

2C* = FSF by responder if you play that, if not it is just forcing and says opener must rebid (remember all new suits are forcing!)

3D** = I have a better than average hand but not quite enough for a 2S rebid originally and I have 6 diamonds

4D*** = OK. I also have a good hand with a diamond fit, we can make slam for sure, maybe 7

4NT = RKCB (Roman Key Card Blackwood)

5S**** = 2 aces with the queen of diamonds

5NT = asking for kings

6D = I have 1 king

6NT is to play

Remember that each bid below game by either opener or responder after game is guaranteed (after 2C bid) shows more than jumping to game so the key is that the 4D bid by responder rather than using RKCB shows a slam interest hand...meaning at least 16 points (but not 18).

With that in mind opener (west) has determined that east has 2 aces and 1 king and the Q of diamonds, which comes to only 13 points, so you can definitely know that partner has another 3 or 4 points in clubs or spades or hearts. So you can bid 6 Diamonds or 6NT with safety.

I hope this helps in future auctions of this nature.

db