

Ask Dwight - March 25 Newsletter - *Monday Morning Feb. 26/18, Hand #21*

Good Morning Dwight.

I played south in a hand that ended up being a Grand Slam. However, every table but one played in 3NT.

My north partner opened 2 Clubs.

As South I responded 2D

North 2NT

South 3NT

How should we have bid that hand?

Thank you for your advice.

B. Anonymous

Dwight's Response

Hello B. Anonymous,

You are quite right in thinking that you should have been in slam and the question is what slam, why and how?

First I will give you an auction that will get you to the heart slam which I would recommend for you. Below I will explain all the bids and the reasoning behind them.

Auction:

- 2C-2D (waiting)
- 2NT-3D*
- 3H-4C**
- 4NT-5C
- 5NT-6H
- P

2D is waiting, showing at least one king or ace.

2NT should show 22 to 24 hcp.

*3D is a transfer to hearts. **Note that South should immediately be thinking about a slam** because of the long suit and a good side suit (clubs). South knows that she must have

North		D	V
♠ A K Q 8			
♥ A 7 3			
♦ A 10			
♣ A Q 9 5			
West	NV	East	NV
♠ J 9 2		♠ 10 7 5 3	
♥ 10 2		♥ Q 5	
♦ Q 8 7 5 3 2		♦ K 9 6 4	
♣ J 8		♣ 10 6 2	
South		V	HCPs
♠ 6 4			23
♥ K J 9 8 6 4			4 5
♦ J			8
♣ K 7 4 3			

Monday, February 26th a.m. Board 21

a double fit in both suits since North has shown a relatively balanced hand. The way to get to a good slam is to simply bid your two suits.

3H simply accepts the transfer.

4C is the key bid by South showing a two-suited hand - hearts and clubs which makes the North hand grow up even more. The 4C bid by South shows at least 4 clubs and longer hearts and so North can envision a slam easily - 3 spades, 5 or six hearts, 1 diamond and 4 clubs - for a total of 12 almost sure tricks and maybe 13. So, North should bid Blackwood to check for Aces (already known**) and then Kings.

4NT is regular Blackwood asking for aces and 5C denies any Aces (already known by North).

5NT asks for Kings.

6H shows 2 Kings and so the auction can end there.

Notice that since the partnership is missing the Queen of hearts it should not be in 7 in case it does not fall doubleton.

If you are playing RKCB (1430) instead of regular Blackwood, the auction would be the same up to the 4NT bid and then the bid of 5C by South would show ONE key card (the King of Clubs).

Then 5NT would ask for Kings (aside from the K of clubs) and the answer would be 6D showing 1King and North would then end the auction by bidding 6H.

I hope this is of help to you and your partner. If you have further questions, please get back to me.

db