

Ask Dwight for May 6 Newsletter: Monday a.m., April 30th, Board 24

Hello Dwight

On [board 24 on Monday morning, April 30](#) my partner opened 3NT showing 25-27 hcp and I passed even though slam was a possibility. We made 5NT but we could have made 6 diamonds. **How could we bid to get to the slam in diamonds?**

Anne Other Player

A bridge hand diagram for Board 24. The cards are distributed as follows:

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

HCPs: 27 (North), 5 (West), 3 (East), 5 (South)

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Dwight's Response

Hi Anne,

Your question is very good. Bidding to a minor suit slam is often difficult, especially when you do not have a long minor suit opposite a big No Trump opening bid. I have found that there is an easy way to tell your partner that you are interested in slam holding both minor suits. I will give you an auction and then explain the reasoning behind the calls made:

3NT-4S

6D-P

Since all/most partnerships have different ways to show opener they have either long hearts or spades by using a transfer sequence, the bid of 4S after partner opens 3NT should not be to play. It can be used to tell partner that you hold exactly 4 Clubs and 4 Diamonds and think you can make a slam in either minor suit if opener has a fit. It also says that if opener does not have a four-card fit with you there is no question that 4NT is safe to play. You know that your side has

between 30 and 32 points, enough to make 11 tricks. Notice that if opener does not have a fit they can bid 4NT which is to play. It is not Blackwood in this situation.

When responder bids 4S telling opener that he/she is interested in slam and has 4/4 in the minor suits, then opener's rebids must be one of only 3 choices:

- 1) 4NT to play with no 4/4 fit in the minors
- 2) 6C with 4 clubs or
- 3) 6D with 4 diamonds.

Hope this helps. Give it a try next time – only if you have discussed it with your favourite partner!

For those who might open the North hand with 2C and later bid NT at the 2 or 3 level, responder can still jump to 4 Spades to convey the same meaning.

db