

BIDDING THE RIGHT SLAM

Your and your partner are vulnerable on this hand. Your partner opens 2♣, a strong artificial opening. What do you say?

S	South
♠	K4
♥	AQ754
♦	4
♣	109753

Your partner's bid shows about 22 or more points. They could be balanced or unbalanced; and the hand is unlimited. Normally, you respond with a waiting bid of 2♦. This gives your partner the opportunity to describe his hand more fully. If he has a long suit, he bids it. If he has a balanced hand he rebids some level of notrump. However, occasionally you will have a hand that also has a long suit (5+) and 8 or more points. It is your duty to let your partner know. On this hand you should respond 2♥. Your partner can use that information to place the contract at the right level and in the right denomination.

Since he knows you have at least 5 hearts, he should raise your suit with 3 or more hearts. This makes your hand even stronger. Your singleton diamond adds another 2 or 3 points and your 5-card club suit, although not very strong, has potential if it marries with partner's clubs.

You should be thinking about slam. You show this by cue bidding up the line. You bid your suits with 1st or 2nd round stoppers. You should start with a rebid of 3♠. Partner will cooperate and if he has stoppers in the other suits, he will bid 4NT, asking for key cards.

You will let him know you have 1 key card and he now asks you to tell him how many kings you hold. You show 1 king and he signs off at 6♥.

West leads the ♦3 and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	A83
♥	K102
♦	AKQ52
♣	AQ

West leads ♦3

S	South
♠	K4
♥	AQ754
♦	4
♣	109753

As long as trumps break 3-2, you have 11 top tricks. You have a 50% chance of an extra club if the ♣K is on side. Making 6♥ shouldn't be a problem. You now should try to find a way to make an overtrick.

This will depend on taking a 4th diamond tricks. Since there are 7 diamonds outstanding and they should break 4-3, you will have to ruff a diamond before you run them from the top. Since you need the ♥AKQ to pull the outstanding trump, you must do this before you ruff the diamond. Now you can take the successful club finesse and run the diamonds. Well done!

This is the entire deal:

D	5	N North	W	N	E	S
		♠ A83	2♣	P	2♥	
W West	♠ J9762	♥ K102	P	3♥	P	3♠
		♦ AKQ52	P	4NT	P	5♦
		♣ AQ	P	5NT	P	6♦
			P	6♥	P	P
		S South	E East			
		♠ K4	♠ Q105			
		♥ AQ754	♥ 96			
		♦ 4	♦ 10987			
		♣ 109753	♣ J862			
			6♥ S		NS: 0 EW: 0	

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/ycnrkabg>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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