

SHAPE TRUMPS POWER

East deals and passes. It's your turn to bid with this hand:

S	South
♠	4
♥	A932
♦	AQJ10742
♣	9

This is a very shapely hand. It holds an almost solid 7-seven card diamond suit and 2 singletons. There are only 11 HCP's but shape makes up for a lot of missing points.

After partner's response of 1♠ you should simply rebid 2♦ and listen to what partner now says. He bids 3♣. This is forcing. You should emphasize your quality diamond suit and rebid 3♦. Your partner goes back to spades with 3♠ and you see a slam in your sights.

You want to find your partner with at least 1 of the missing aces. It would also be nice if he held the ♦K. Best of all would be his holding of 2 aces plus the ♦K. You can find this out if you are playing Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB.) Bid 4NT and partner will tell you about his holding in these 3 key cards.

If he holds just 1 ace or just the ♦K, he will rebid 1♣. If he has 2 aces or 1 ace and the ♦K, he will bid 5♥. If he has all three of the key cards, he will rebid 5♦. This is called the 1430 version of RKC Blackwood. How does he know you are looking for the ♦K? Because you bid the suit three times and never supported any of his suits.

This is how the bidding should progress:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

West leads the ♣2. Can you make a plan for taking 12 tricks?

N	North
♠	A109852
♥	J
♦	6
♣	AKQ75

West leads the ♣2

S	South
♠	4
♥	A932
♦	AQJ10742
♣	9

There are only a total of 25 HCP, but it shouldn't be too hard to figure out how you can use your shape to substitute for power.

You have no spade losers, 1 possible diamond loser and no club losers. You do have 3 heart losers and you can't trump all three of them in the dummy. So you will have to discard two of them on the long clubs in the dummy. Do this right away, risking that the opponents will ruff one of the first three club tricks. Win the ♣A and discard hearts on the ♣K and ♣Q. Then lead the ♥J to your ♥A and ruff your last heart with dummy's ♦6. Now lead the ♠A and another spade to get back to your hand. lead the ♦A. If both opponents follow, you can give up the ♦K and claim.

Note that West can defeat the contract if he leads the ♦9. This will eliminate your ability to rid yourself of that last heart loser.

This is the entire deal:

10 ^D	N North	W N E S
	♠ A109852 ♥ J ♦ 6 ♣ AKQ75	P 1♠ P 2♦ P 3♣ P 3♦ P 3♠ P 4NT P 5♥ P 6♦
W West		E East
♠ Q76 ♥ Q10864 ♦ 9 ♣ J862		♠ KJ3 ♥ K75 ♦ K853 ♣ 1043
	S South	
	♠ 4 ♥ A932 ♦ AQJ10742 ♣ 9	
		6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<http://tinyurl.com/n4p2dok> , 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. If you click on GIB, the software will analyze the hand and show the result for each opening lead.

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