

# Bidding the Slams

Only four of the 36 deals in the Pro-Am tournament on June 20 distributed the cards for makeable slams. As the partnerships were all new to each other, questions were common on these deals; did we agree on Blackwood or 1430? Will he understand my bid? What does that response mean.

Here is Board 19, where three teams (Barb Clagett and Tom Kennedy, Marsey Sherman and John Kreag, and Grace Thayer and Linda Roberts) reached the best contract.

Dlr: South Vul: E/W	♠ K Q J 8 5 3																															
	♥ 8 6 5 4 3																															
	♦ 2																															
	♣ 8																															
♠ 10 9	<b>Board No 19</b>	♠ 6 4 2																														
♥ 10		♥ K J 2																														
♦ Q J 8 6 4		♦ 10 9 7 3																														
♣ K Q J 9 2		♣ 10 7 6																														
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>w9</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">HCP</td><td>E4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>s21</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N6		w9	HCP	E4		s21		♠ A 7																						
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	♣ A 5 4 3																															
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	N																											
N	1	-	6	6	5																											
S	1	-	6	6	5																											
E	-	-	-	-	-																											
W	-	-	-	-	-																											

**Tom Kennedy**, playing with **Barb Clagett**, explained:

Not a lot of science in my bidding. My partner (south) opened 2NT, I bid 3H (a transfer to S).

I really liked my hand (a lot more value than 6 HCP's !!! I figured with length and shortness it was closer to 12 to 15 playable pts. A definite chance for slam.), and I knew partner had at least 2 spades, and I had solid spades so I decided not to confuse the issue by considering hearts and I bid 4NT.

Here is where the lack of science comes in. We had not discussed what type of ace-asking responses we were going to use. She bid 5S (she had never responded with a hand holding 4 aces before, so she picked 5S, my regular partner would have bid 5NT). I figured partner had three aces. The lead was coming up to her big hand, so there was a

good chance that the lead might set up a critical trick. Missing the ace of spades, diamonds or clubs meant losing only one trick based on my hand. So making the hand really depended on what partner held in hearts. Her points had to be somewhere (hopefully in hearts) and I decided to take the chance and bid 6S. Brilliant!

Board 26 offered a different challenge. Again, three teams reached the best spot -- Ann Hyndman and Dave Deal, Nancy Stocher and Mary Jeisel and Pat Grams and Larry Willis.

Here was the deal:

Dlr: East Vul: All	♠ 9 7 4 3 2																																								
	♥ J 9																																								
	♦ 7 5 4																																								
	♣ Q 5 3																																								
♠ Q J 10	<b>Board No 26</b>	♠ A K 8 5																																							
♥ K Q 8 6 2		♥ 4																																							
♦ 10 9 3 2		♦ A K Q 8 6																																							
♣ 9		♣ A J 10																																							
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		N3																																							
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S	-	-	-	-	-																																				
E	-	6	3	5	5																																				
W	-	6	3	5	5																																				
♥ A 10 7 5 3																																									
♦ J																																									
♣ K 8 7 6 4 2																																									

Larry explained his team's sequence:

I opened 2C and Pat bid 2H which in our system showed 7+ points and a heart suit. I debated whether to bid 3NT or 3D and decided on the latter because I knew we could not stop short of game.

After some deliberation Pat made the key bid of 4D and I bid 6D knowing that Pat probably held no more than 4 black cards.

At least that's my story and I am sticking to it!

Board 33 was much easier, with six teams in Section B getting to the small slams that were makeable in hearts, clubs or no trump. Interestingly, none of the Section A East-Wests got to slam on the board.

	♠ Q 10 9 2										
	♥ 7 5 4 2										
	♦ Q 8 7										
	♣ 4 2										
♠ 8	<b>Board No 33</b>	♠ K J 7									
♥ Q 8 6		♥ A K J 9									
♦ 6 3		♦ A 10 9 4									
♣ A K 9 7 6 5 3		♣ J 8									
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>w9</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">HCP</td><td>E17</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>s10</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N4		w9	HCP	E17		s10		♠ A 6 5 4 3	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
	N4										
w9	HCP	E17									
	s10										
	♥ 10 3	N - - - - -									
	♦ K J 5 2	S - - - - -									
	♣ Q 10	E 6 3 6 1 6									
		W 6 3 6 1 6									

**Joan Henderson** and **Joe Hollis** got a break on Board 20, making 6 Spades when a lead away from a queen set up the doubleton jack in dummy.

	♠ 9 7 2										
	♥ 10 8 4 3										
	♦ Q 7										
	♣ 9 8 7 6										
♠ 6 5	<b>Board No 20</b>	♠ K Q 10 8 4 3									
♥ A K 9 7		♥ J 6									
♦ A 10 9		♦ J 5 4									
♣ K 10 4 2		♣ A J									
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>w14</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">HCP</td><td>E12</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>s12</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N2		w14	HCP	E12		s12		♠ A J	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
	N2										
w14	HCP	E12									
	s12										
	♥ Q 5 2	N - - - - -									
	♦ K 8 6 3 2	S - - - - -									
	♣ Q 5 3	E 3 3 3 5 5									
		W 3 3 3 5 5									

On Board 31, Robert and Sandy Ramee and Arlene Loca and Jill Soderquist bid to 3NT, like most of the teams, but also caught a lead from a queen, played the dummy's jack and gathered a dozen tricks.

Dlr: South Vul: N/S	♠ K 4																																								
	♥ 6 5 4																																								
	♦ J 10 9 8 3 2																																								
	♣ J 3																																								
♠ J 8 5 3	<b>Board No 31</b>	♠ Q 10 9 2																																							
♥ 8 7 3		♥ K J 10 2																																							
♦ K 4		♦ 7 6																																							
♣ Q 10 9 5		♣ 8 7 6																																							
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E	-	-	-	-	-																																				
W	-	-	-	-	-																																				

But the team of Connie Tanner and Mike Morice win the trophy for courage and skill. Look at what they did on Board 36.

Dlr: West Vul: All	♠ A K																									
	♥ A K 8 6 5																									
	♦ K 8 4																									
	♣ K J 7																									
♠ 8 4 3 2	<b>Board No 36</b>	♠ Q J 10 9 5																								
♥ J 2		♥ 7																								
♦ Q 10 6 2		♦ A J 5 3																								
♣ Q 8 6		♣ 10 9 4																								
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>n21</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>w5</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">HCP</td><td>e8</td></tr> </table>		n21		w5	HCP	e8	♠ 7 6	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	N	N	5	1	5	-	5	S	5	-	5	-	3
	n21																									
w5	HCP	e8																								
	♣	♦	♥	♠	N																					
N	5	1	5	-	5																					
S	5	-	5	-	3																					

s6	♥ Q 10 9 4 3	E - - - 1 -
	♦ 9 7	W- - - 1 -
	♣ A 5 3 2	

Alone among all 23 North-Souths, they bid to 6 Hearts. The Diamond ace came down from East on the opening lead, and Connie rolled in the next 12 tricks for a well-earned 1430.

**Moral:** Be sure you and partner agree on telling each other about the controls, but never forget that it is good to be lucky and brave.