

Bridge at the Village Lesson Hand—August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2018

Brian Potter, Club Manager and Club Director

1/2

On this week's lesson deal—board seventeen—North–South visit the grand slam zone on 34 HCP. Before South bids 2NT over 2♣, a spade game is the goal. The 2NT bid switches North's thoughts from “Can we make 4♠?” to “Which slam is best?”

Board: 17 Dealer: N Vul: None	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠AQ10863 ♥AQ ♦AK4 ♣AJ </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠974 ♥86 ♦Q97 ♣109752 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>J109752</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>J10832</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q8</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>KJ52</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K43</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>65</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>K643</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">HCP</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table>	♠AQ10863 ♥AQ ♦AK4 ♣AJ	♠974 ♥86 ♦Q97 ♣109752	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>J109752</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>J10832</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q8</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠				♥	J109752			♦	J10832			♣	Q8			<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W		E							S			<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	7	7	2	3	4	S	7	7	2	3	5	E						W						<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>KJ52</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K43</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>65</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>K643</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠	KJ52			♥	K43			♦	65			♣	K643			<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">HCP</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> </table>			24		4	HCP		2			10		Possible Auction West North East South 2♣ ⁽¹⁾ Pass 2NT ⁽²⁾ Pass 3♠ ⁽³⁾ Pass 4♠ ⁽⁴⁾ Pass 4NT ⁽⁵⁾ Pass 4♣ ⁽⁶⁾ Pass 5NT ⁽⁷⁾ Pass 6♣ ⁽⁸⁾ Pass 6♦ ⁽⁹⁾ Pass 6♥ ^(a) Pass 7NT ^(b) All Pass
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Bidding Notes—Board 17

- (1) North promises 8½ or more offensive winners and 4 or more defensive winners in hand or a balanced hand with more than 21 HCP.
- (2) South shows a balanced hand with 10–12 HCP—good high card points, aces, kings, and quacks with an ace or king. After a 2♣ opening with most winners from high cards (not extreme distribution), this limit bid also forces to 6♣.
- (3) Five spades with 8½ or more offensive winners and 4 or more defensive tricks in hand. North has added 24 HCP + 10 HCP = 34 HCP. Thus, North will drive to 6♠, 6NT, 7♠, or 7NT. 34 HCP in the combined hands and the assured eight-card spade fit suffice for 6♠ or 6NT. The sixth spade may be a thirteenth trick.
- (4) South shows three-card or longer spade support, up to five spade cards.
- (5) 1430 Keycard Ask: How many keycards among {♠AK, ♥A, ♦A, ♣A} do you have?
- (6) South has one or four key cards—the ♠K because North has all four aces.
- (7) We have all five key cards. I either hold the ♠Q or have so many spades that they will run without the ♠Q. Please, show your side suit king(s).
- (8) South holds the ♣K.
- (9) Do you have another side suit king?
- (a) South holds the ♥K without any third round controls.
- (b) North bids what the hand should make. North can count ace–king in every side suit for six top side suit winners. If South has a fourth spade, if neither defender has a fourth spade, if South holds ♠KJx, or if there is a marked finesse for the ♠J; there are six spade winners for twelve top tricks.

South holding ♥Kxx, will provide a thirteenth trick. When South's hearts are merely ♥Kx, diamonds no better than ♦Jx, and clubs ♣Kx(x), lively *squeeze* chances must exist while *pseudo-squeeze* chances abound.

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Opening Lead Notes—Board 17

- » Leading a top heart both attacks a suit where the defenders may have chances to build a winner and assures that the *opening lead will not give away a trick*. Which heart West leads depends upon partnership lead agreements.

Play Notes—Board 17

- » There should be no play. After North faces the dummy, South should claim all thirteen tricks:

Win the heart in North; cash the second top heart in North; ♠3 to the ♠K in the closed hand; cash the ♥K discarding the ♦4 (Stating this discard is a key point because it removes the diamond loser from the North hand.); cash the ♣K (♣J from North). Now, the North hand has the remaining eight tricks: two top diamonds, ♣A and run five spades from the top (Unblocking the ♠J on the ♠A and the ♠5 on the ♠Q. This spade play assures that the ♠J will not win the fourth spade after the ♦AK and ♣A are gone leaving the declarer stranded in the South hand with nothing left but two club losers.)

Thoughts on Board 17

- » This hand is all about the bidding. North takes charge and drives to slam immediately after South's positive 2NT response. Partnerships may have different ways to ask for aces and kings. All roads lead to North coming to know that the combined hands hold six nearly certain spades tricks, ♥AK, ♦AK, ♣AK, and good *squeeze* chances if there is no top thirteenth trick. With that knowledge, 7NT is the correct contract because there can be no first round defensive ruff.
- » Playing the hand out rather than claiming is cruel to the opponents. Refusing to claim allows a false hop that the defenders may have a setting trick. Forcing them to strive for the impossible tortures them. Worse, playing the hand out gives declarer a chance to make a mistake and go down.
- » When you claim, carefully describe your line of play. Just saying, "I have six spades and seven side suit tops," is true, but you might misplay. Unless you know your opponents respect your declarer play skill enough to realize that you would not misplay, avoid a director call by clearly stating an air tight line of play.
- » Sometimes, the opening leader against a grand slam will be *end played* on the opening lead. Opponents who bid a grand slam usually have twelve solid winners. They may be relying on a helpful opening lead, *squeeze*, or defensive blunder for the thirteenth trick. Thus, a safe opening lead (giving nothing away and forcing declarer to spend a control) is very desirable. After such a lead, declarer may need effort or luck to build a missing thirteenth trick. Perhaps, the defense needs only wait for the setting trick.