

# Bridge at the Village Lesson Hand—January 28, 2019

Brian Potter, Club Manager and Club Director

1/2

On this week's lesson deal—board twelve—indicates that North–South can make a slam on 27 HCP—if South declares in diamonds. If North declares in a red suit, the defense may start with a spade ruff, club ace, and an attempted club ruff—not good for fulfilled slam aspirations. Bidding the makable 6♦ contract may be harder than playing it.

Board: 8 Dealer: W Vul.: None ♠AKT74 ♥AQT63 ♦4 ♣A3	♠QJ6532 ♥8 ♦983 ♣T94 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div> ♠98 ♥72 ♦KQJT7 ♣J875	♠ ♥KJ954 ♦A652 ♣KQ62	<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Possible Auction</b> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥ (1)</td> <td>Pass (2)</td> <td>3♠ (3)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣ (4)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦ (4)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT (5)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥ (6)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5NT (7)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣ (8)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7♥ (9)</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Lead: ♠Q or ♠J</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥ (1)	Pass (2)	3♠ (3)	Pass	4♣ (4)	Pass	4♦ (4)	Pass	4NT (5)	Pass	5♥ (6)	Pass	5NT (7)	Pass	6♣ (8)	Pass	7♥ (9)	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																								
1♥ (1)	Pass (2)	3♠ (3)	Pass																								
4♣ (4)	Pass	4♦ (4)	Pass																								
4NT (5)	Pass	5♥ (6)	Pass																								
5NT (7)	Pass	6♣ (8)	Pass																								
7♥ (9)	All Pass																										

  

N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ N S E 5 3 7 2 5 W 5 4 7 2 5	3 17 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">HCP</span> 13 7
---	---

## Bidding Notes—Board 8

- (1) West plans a 2♠ rebid to show extra values and length in both major suits.
- (2) The North hand is too weak to overcall, but the an aggressive player might venture a weak 2♠ overcall. If that happens, East should follow with a 3♠ cue bid and then invite slam if West hints at extra values.
- (3) Splinter Raise—promising four-card trump support, a void or singleton in the bid suit, and values sufficient for a raise to game without considering the splinter.
- (4) *Control bids* showing an ace, king, void, or singleton in the bid suit.
- (5) West continues the slam probe by asking for key cards (♠A, ♥AK, ♦A, and ♣A).
- (6) East promises two key cards (♥K and ♦A) without the trump queen (♥Q). West can now count nine top tricks and two spade ruffs (eleven offensive winners) if East holds ♠x ♥Kxxx ♦Axxx ♣xxxx. Since East should be a trick or two better than this for the splinter raise, West aims higher than 6♥.
- (7) Promising *all* the key cards, asking for minor suit kings, *and inviting a grand slam*—an invitation which East should accept when holding extra values.
- (8) East could just bid 7♥, but there is no rush. 7NT scores ten points more than 7♥. At matchpoint scoring, when 7NT and 7♥ both make, the ten extra points will beat pairs who bid the heart grand slam. Taking time to show the ♣K and investigate 7NT possibilities may pay large matchpoint dividends.
- (9) We can win all the tricks, but 7NT is probably a bad idea.

## Opening Lead Notes—Board 8

- » Even after East's *splinter raise*, North probably leads a top spade.
- » Rarely, North may try the ♥8 in a vain attempt to reduce East's ruffing values.

## Bridge at the Village Lesson Hand—January 28, 2019

2/2

Brian Potter, Club Manager and Club Director

Play Notes—Board 8

- » West wins trick one, pulls two rounds of trumps leaving enough trumps for three ruffs in each hand. That comes to fourteen tricks.

Thoughts on Board 8

- » With fourteen fast tricks and no losers, this hand is about the bidding. For starters, as soon as East shows opening values, West launches a slam hunt. East's control bid rebid after West's control bid confirms mutual slam interest.
- » *Blackwood*, *Roman Keycard Blackwood*, *Keycard 1430*, and *Kickback* all perform well on this hand. Some more difficult hands are more easily bid correctly with a keycard variant of the *Blackwood Convention*.