

Railway Union Bridge Club

BBO Monday 30th Nov 2020

Slam Night

Analysis and Winning Tips

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check out the Bridge Coach website
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/coachteach/home.html>



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Slam Night

Slam Bidding

7NT 7♠ 7♥ 7♦ 7♣

6NT 6♠ 6♥ 6♦ 6♣

Slams occur on 10% of all deals - expect a slam deal your way 5% of the time or 1 deal in 20

To bid slams accurately you must

- **Estimate whether your hands are strong enough**
- **Ensure you have enough tricks**
- **Locate the necessary controls and trump honours**

The basic slam bidding tools are Cue Bidding and Roman Key Card Blackwood

Slam Mindset

When we have excess values for game

If slam could be on

We assess slam potential Cue Bid/RKC

Roman Key Card RKC 1430 - use this when you have a trump fit

The King of trumps is the 5th Ace

4NT RKC responses (Key Card Ask with Hearts agreed) are

5♣ = 1 or 4 Key Cards

5♦ = 0 or 3 Key Cards

5♥ = 2 or 5 Key Cards without the Queen of Trump

5♠ = 2 or 5 Key Cards with the Queen of Trump or holding a 5th Trump

You don't know about the Q♥ after the 5♣, 5♦ replies.

QUEEN ASK: You bid the next free suit as an ask for the Queen trumps

1♥

4NT RKC

5♦ do you have Q♥ ?

3♥

5♣ 1 of 5 aces

responses

5♥ No I don't have the Q♥

5♠ I have Q♥ and the K♠

6♣ I have Q♥ and the K♣

6♦ I have Q♥ and the K♦ no K♠ K♣

6♥ I have Q♥ but so side King

Grand Slam Zone

You have all 5 aces and Queen trumps

1♥

4NT RKC

5NT **We have all 5 Aces and Q♥ how many kings have you?**

replies 6♣ No Side Kings , 6♦ One King , 6♥ Two kings etc

3♥

5♣ 1 of 5 aces

Slam Bidding Guidelines

Key Cards	Honours	Trump Length	Bid Slam
2 Key cards Missing			No
1 Key Card Missing	No Queen	8-	No
1 Key Card Missing	No Jack, No Queen	9	No
1 Key Card Missing	Queen Held	8+	Yes
1 Key Card Missing	Jack, No Queen	9	Yes
1 Key Card Missing		10+	Yes

When we have the values for a slam

If 2 key cards are missing , stop out of slam

If one key card is missing and you have the trump queen bid a slam

If one key and the trump queen are missing do not bid slam

- However with no Q bid slam with 10 trumps or 9 trumps including the Jack

Board 1 Dealer North Nil All

A good 6S slam for NS to start the night

N delaney56

♠ QJ108742
♥ K
♦ A9
♣ A85


W West

♠ 5
♥ J10752
♦ 63
♣ J10942

W	N	E	S
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

E Robot

♠ K96
♥ 983
♦ K8752
♣ 73

S  delaney 6

♠ A3
♥ AQ64
♦ QJ104
♣ KQ6

Comments

With 18 points opposite an opening bid South is keen to bid a slam. A good plan is to listen to North's rebid and find out if you have a spade, heart or diamond fit.

If a fit is found then Roman Key Card Blackwood will be used to place the final contract.

Bidding

North

1S

2S

3S 6+ spades

5S 2/5 aces + Q♠

South

2D

3H

4NT RKC 1430


6S (or 6NT)

Play: Discard the diamond loser on a top heart making 12 tricks 6S +980

Winning Tip: Agree that a jump to 4NT agrees the last suit bid and is Roman Key Card Blackwood with 1430 responses.

Board 2 Dealer East NS Vul

6H is good but a 7H grand slam is the top score for EW

		N delaney56			
		♠ Q9653			
		♥ 10			
		♦ 9			
		♣ K98652			
W Robot	W	N	E	S	E Robot
♠ AK7			1♥ Pass		♠ 4
♥ AK95	2NT Pass		3♠ Pass		♥ QJ7632
♦ AQ843	6♥ Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	♦ K76
♣ 4					♣ AQ10
		S  delaney56 6			
		♠ J1082			
		♥ 84			
		♦ J1052			
		♣ J73			

Comments

With 20 points and a strong heart fit
West knows a slam is on and that a grand
slam will make if East has the K♦ and A♣

Bidding

East

1H

3D

4C cue bid

4H

5C 1 of 5 aces

6D Q♥ and K♦

West

2D

3H

4D cue bid

4NT RKC 1430

5D have you Q♥?

7H

Play: 12 top tricks and a club ruff for 13 tricks.

Winning Tip: The Queen ask in RKC is a great
way to identify specific kings for grand slams.

Board 3

Dealer South EW Vulnerable

Top Score 6S
Many top experts will bid 7S on this hand and go down

N delaney56

♠AKQ983
♥A3
♦AQ975
♣

W Robot

♠
♥KQ1098762
♦10862
♣A

W N E S

3♥

3♠

Pass

4♥

Pass

4NT

Pass

5♦

Pass

5NT

Pass

6♦

Pass

7♠

Pass

Pass

E Robot

♠J1064
♥J54
♦3
♣KJ543

S delaney 6

♠752
♥
♦KJ4
♣Q1098762

Comments

South opens a 3C pre-empt and North shows a strong hand with spades. Now South has an amazing hand for spades and bids 4H as a cue bid with spade support. North drives to slam with RKC.

Bidding

South	West	North	East
3C	3H	3S (forcing)	Pass
4H cue bid	Pass	4NT RKC	Pass
5D 0/3 Aces	Pass	5NT	Pass
6D	Pass	6S	all pass

I have sympathy for any pair who bid 7S which unluckily goes down one with spades 4-0

Play: Ruff a small heart in dummy lose a spade for 12 tricks.

Winning Tip: When both sides are bidding actively a bad break in trumps is more likely.

Board 4 Dealer West Game All

Top Score 6H , another unlucky grand slam

D Board 4

W West

♠ AJ765
♥ AQ65
♦ 7
♣ 942

North

♠ 10983
♥ 1094
♦ 8
♣ KQJ53

W N E S
1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 4NT Pass
5♠ Pass 5NT Pass
6♥ Pass Pass Pass

South

♠ KQ4
♥ 87
♦ 109654
♣ 1076

West North East

East

♠ 2
♥ KJ32
♦ AKQJ32
♣ A8

Comments

In 6H when you see dummy you expect to make an overtrick. However the 5-1 diamond break means you do not have 6 diamond tricks.

Bidding

West

1S

2H

5S 2 of 5 aces with Q♥

East

2D

4NT RKC hearts

7H

I would 'count' 13 tricks and bid 7H

Play: The unfortunate diamond break holds declarer to 12 tricks.

Board 5

Dealer North NS Vulnerable

An EW sacrifice in a minor suit will be a great success although they may push NS to a making 7H/7S

N Ether1 4 ♠ 9432 ♥ KQJ8754 ♦ J ♣ A																		
W Robot ♠ 10 ♥ 102 ♦ AK1076 ♣ J10853	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>5♦</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>6♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>7♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♥	2NT	5♦		Dbl	6♦	Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass		E Robot ♠ 6 ♥ ♦ Q985432 ♣ KQ742
W	N	E	S															
1♥	2NT	5♦																
Dbl	6♦	Pass	7♥															
Pass	Pass	Pass																
S delaney 6 ♠ AKQJ875 ♥ A963 ♦ ♣ 96																		

Comments

East West have a great chance to bid actively here with a double fit in the minors. East bids the unusual 2NT showing both minors.

This make it as difficult for North South to accurately assess their combined strength

The **Bidding** might go as follows

North	East	South	West
1H	2NT (minors)	3S	5D
5S	6D	6S	Pass
Pass	7D	Pass	Pass
Double			

Play: 7Dx-2 top defence gets 7Dx-3
club lead, A♠, club ruff

Winning Tip: When you have a big fit with partner in two suits keep bidding until you are doubled !

Board 6

Dealer East EW Vulnerable

EW will do well to bid a club slam here

A board from Ireland v Netherlands 2004
Bridge Olympiad. For Ireland Adam Mesbur
and Nick Fitzgibbon bid and made 7C as did the
Dutch World Champion team.

Comments

7C has 13 tricks and in fact it is good
bidding to get to 6C on these hands

Bidding

East	West
1H	2C
3C	3NT

Play: On a heart lead West has time to
finesse diamonds for 13 tricks. A spade
lead will hold 3NT to 12 tricks.

N Robot						
♠ Q105						
♥ 87532						
♦ K9752						
♣						
W Robot	W	N	E	S	E Robot	
♠ A942			1♥	1♠	♠	
♥ A	2♣	2♠	4♣	Pass	♥ KQJ106	
♦ Q106	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	♦ AJ4	
♣ KQ942	5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass	♣ AJ1053	
S 🏆 delaney				6		
♠ KJ8763						
♥ 94						
♦ 83						
♣ 876						

Board 8

Dealer West Nil All

A chance for East to shine and bid 6H

		N Ether1 4			
		♠ 864			
		♥ 65			
		♦ Q98653			
		♣ 93			
W Robot		W	N	E	S
♠ KJ5		1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ KQ9743		2♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
♦ K10		4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ 54					
		E Robot			
		♠ A32			
		♥ A102			
		♦ J			
		♣ AK10862			
		S 🏆 delaney 6			
		♠ Q1097			
		♥ J8			
		♦ A742			
		♣ QJ7			

Comments

During the auction an aggressive East might visualise the play and expect that the clubs can be setup with ruffs.

Bidding

West

1H

2H

5C

5S Q♥ and K♠

East

2C

4NT RKC

5D queen ask

6H

Play: Draw trumps and ruff a club for 13 tricks.

Board 9

Dealer North EW Vulnerable

A difficult slam – most tables will play in 4H

		N Ether1 4			
		♠ A 10 9			
		♥ K J 9			
		♦ A K 5 2			
		♣ A Q 8			
W Robot		W	N	E	S
♠ 6 5 3 2		Pass	2NT	Pass	4♦
♥ A 5 4		Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
♦ 8 7 6 4 3		Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
♣ 2		Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
		Pass			
		E Robot			
		♠ K Q J 8 7			
		♥			
		♦ Q 10 9			
		♣ J 10 9 6 4			
		S delaney 6			
		♠ 4			
		♥ Q 10 8 7 6 3 2			
		♦ J			
		♣ K 7 5 3			

Comments

Not an easy slam to reach. South may cue bid knowing that if 2 aces are missing partner will stop in 5H.

Bidding

North

2NT

3H

4D

4NT RKC

6H

South

3D

4C cue bid with slam interest

4H

5D 0/5 aces

Play: 12 tricks on top

Board 10 Dealer East Game All

A wow hand

N Ether14

♠

♥AKQ1097632

♦6

♣AK5

W Robot

♠KJ10764

♥84

♦Q985

♣2

S delaneyp6

♠Q3

♥

♦AKJ7432

♣Q1093

W

N

E

S

2♠

3♥

4♠

5♣

Pass

7♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

E Robot

♠A9852

♥J5

♦10

♣J8764

Comments

North is planning a 2C opening when partner opens and West preempts.

Bidding

South	West	North	East
1D	2S	3H	4S
Pass	Pass	7H	

The opponents spade bidding and partners failure to double 4S confirms that South values are all working. So the grand slam is bid.

Play: 13 top tricks

Board 11 Dealer South Nil All

A hand to test the NS bidding skills

Board 11

D

West	North	West North	East
♠ K9852	♠ QJ6		♠ 73
♥ 3	♥ 876		♥ J109
♦ 1074	♦ K32		♦ J986
♣ K1042	♣ AQJ7		♣ 8653
	S South		
	♠ A104		
	♥ AKQ542		
	♦ AQ5		
	♣ 9		

Comments

After South opens 1H opening and jumps to 3H most players will bid 4H which may end the auction.

If North decides they have extra values and cue bids, then slam will be reached.

Bidding

South	North
1H	2C
3H forcing	4D cue bid
4NT RKC	5C
5NT all 5 aces + Q♥ held	6D one king
6H	

Play: 12 tricks after you lose the spade finesse.

Winning Tip: In RKC continue with 5NT to

Show all 5 aces and Q trumps held

Ask partner how many kings they have (excluding king trumps)

Board 12 Dealer West NS Vulnerable

A good slam with cue bids swapped before RKC

		N Ether1 4			
		♠ 109			
		♥ AK107			
		♦ 10842			
		♣ 983			
W Robot		W	N	E	S
♠ AQ8765		1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
♥ 2		4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
♦ QJ		4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
♣ AKQJ		6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
		E Robot			
		♠ K432			
		♥ QJ63			
		♦ A97			
		♣ 62			
		S delaney 6			
		♠ J			
		♥ 9854			
		♦ K653			
		♣ 10754			

Comments

EW swap cue bids to build confidence before using RKC

Bidding

West

East

1S

3S invitational

4C cue bid

4D cue bid of A♦

4NT

5H 2 of 5 aces no Q♠

6S

Play: A♥ lead and diamond switch. Rise with A♦ Draw trumps and discards 2 diamonds on the clubs making 12 tricks.

Board 13 Dealer North Game All

5D will not score well with 3NT making overtricks

		N Ether1 4			
		♠ Q10987			
		♥ K3			
		♦ 103			
		♣ KJ97			
W Robot		W N E S		E Robot	
♠ 532		Pass 1♦ Pass		♠ AK	
♥ AQ102		1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass		♥ 64	
♦ J9		4♦ Pass 5♦ Pass		♦ AKQ8754	
♣ A1042		Pass Pass		♣ 65	
		S delaney 6			
		♠ J64			
		♥ J9875			
		♦ 62			
		♣ Q83			

Comments

A 2C or Acol 2D opening by East will lead to 6D which can be knocked by a club lead. After a 1D opening West may play 3NT on a spade lead making 11 or 12 tricks.

Bidding

East	West
1D	1H
3D	3NT

West bids 3NT hoping partner has a spade stop

Play: On a spade lead against 3NT by West best play is to finesse 10♥ making 12 tricks.

Winning Tip: A simple finesse wins 50% of the time - finesse Q♥

One of two finesses will win 75% of the time – finesse 10♥ and later if required finesse Q♥

Board 14 Dealer East Nil All

A biddable 6H slam for EW with a fit and strong values

		N Ether1 4			
		♠ 87432			
		♥			
		♦ J75			
		♣ J10953			
W Robot		W	N	E	S
♠ KQ				1NT	Pass
♥ AK9732		4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
♦ KQ83		4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
♣ 7		6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
		S delaney 6			
		♠ 1095			
		♥ 10654			
		♦ A92			
		♣ 862			
				E Robot	
				♠ AJ6	
				♥ QJ8	
				♦ 1064	
				♣ AKQ4	

Comments

EW have two strong hands so a slam should be bid. It is good practice for East and West to both make a cue bid confirming slam interest before using RKC.

Bidding playing weak NT

East

1C

1NT 15-17

3H

4C

5S 2 aces with Q♥

West

1H

3D game force

3S cue bid slam interest

4NT

6H

Play: You only lose to the A♦ making 12 tricks.

Dealer West NS Vulnerable

3NT makes 10 tricks , not easy to bid 6D here

Board 15		West	North	East	South
D		West ♠ 8732 ♥ 1074 ♦ 65 ♣ A865	North ♠ A9 ♥ Q65 ♦ AQJ109842 ♣	East ♠ J105 ♥ A98 ♦ 73 ♣ K9432	South ♠ KQ64 ♥ KJ32 ♦ K ♣ QJ107

Comments

What do you open with the North hand?
A 1D opening will lead to 3NT by South
making 11 tricks.

A strong two opening will lead to a 6D slam.

Bidding

North

2C strong

3D 8+ tricks with diamonds

3S cue bid

6D

South

2D waiting

3H values

4D agrees diamonds

Play: 12 tricks on top in 6D

Winning Tip: Do not use RKC with a void , cue bidding is much better.

Board 16 Dealer West EW Vulnerable

3NT makes 10 tricks , not easy to bid 6D here

		N Ether1 4			
		♠			
		♥ J10932			
		♦ KQ52			
		♣ J832			
W Robot		W	N	E	S
♠ AKQ964		1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
♥ K85		3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
♦ J		4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
♣ K97		5NT	Pass	6♠	Pass
		7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
		S delaney 6			
		♠ 1083			
		♥ 76			
		♦ 109764			
		♣ 1065			
				E Robot	
				♠ J752	
				♥ AQ4	
				♦ A83	
				♣ AQ4	

Comments

Most pairs will get to 6S. It takes real skill to bid 7S and know it is making.

If you decide not to bid 7S then playing 6NT is a smart way to beat every pair in 6S.

Bidding

West

1S

3S

4D cue bid

5S 2 aces + Qs

6H 2 side kings

East

2C

4C cue bid

4NT RKC

5NT

6NT

East can count 12 top tricks and so bids 6NT. If West has K♦ 7S could go down.

Play: 13 top tricks

Board 17 Dealer East Nil All

6H makes on this hand but it is difficult to bid.

		N Ether1 4			
		♠ J54			
		♥ 87			
		♦ AK8542			
		♣ 65			
W Robot		W	N	E	S
♠ Q				1♣	2♠
♥ AK1042		3♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
♦ J10976		Pass	Pass		
♣ K2					
		S delaney 6			
		♠ K1097632			
		♥ 96			
		♦ 3			
		♣ QJ4			
				E Robot	
				♠ A8	
				♥ QJ53	
				♦ Q	
				♣ A109873	

Comments

South should bid 2S or 3S which makes life difficult for EW.

4S doubled by NS going 2 down will be a top.

Bidding

East	South	West	North
1C	2S weak	3H	3S
4H	all pass		

Play: Draw trumps and ruff the clubs good for 12 tricks.

Board 18 Dealer South NS Vulnerable

On a heart lead 3NT will make 13 tricks.

		N Ether1 4			
		♠ 1064			
		♥ K4			
		♦ 5			
		♣ AQ108753			
W Robot		W	N	E	S
♠ QJ7				Pass 2♦	
♥ 10987		Pass 2♥		Pass 3♦	
♦ 1072		Pass 4♣		Pass 4♦	
♣ K96		Pass 4♥		Pass 5♥	
		Pass 6♦		Pass Pass	
		S delaney 6			
		♠ A8			
		♥ AQ5			
		♦ AKQ963			
		♣ J4			
				E Robot	
				♠ K9532	
				♥ J632	
				♦ J84	
				♣ 2	

Comments

Most tables will open 1D and rebid 3NT over partners 2C response.

As it happens both the 6C and 6D slams make due to the friendly lie of the cards.

Bidding

South	North
1D	2C
3NT	all pass

Play: Win heart in hand with Q♥

Run the J♣ for 13 tricks.