Railway Union Bridge Club





BBO Monday 30th Nov 2020

Slam Night

Analysis and Winning Tips

Commentator : Paul Delaney

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

Slam Night



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 
ightharpoonup = 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. 1 of 5 aces
      5♦ do you have Q♥?
                                responses
                                         No I don't have the Q♥
                                   5♥
                                        I have Q♥ and the K ♠
                                   5 🧆
                                        I have Q♥ and the K ♣
                                        I have Q♥ and the K♦ no K♠ K♠
                                         I have Q♥ but so side King
                                   6♥
Grand Slam Zone
                        You have all 5 aces and Queen trumps
      1♥
     4NT
            RKC
                                              5. 1 of 5 aces
      5NT
            We have all 5 Aces and Q♥ how many kings have you?
                       6♣ No Side Kings, 6♦ One King, 6♥ Two kings etc.
```

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

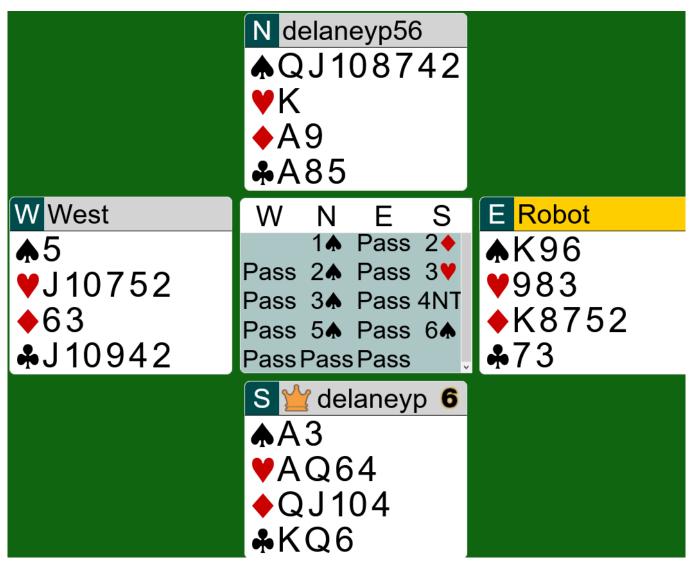
- If 2 key cards are missing, stop out of slam

 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



Comments

With 18 points opposite an opening bid South is keen to bid a slam. A good plan is to listen to Norths 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

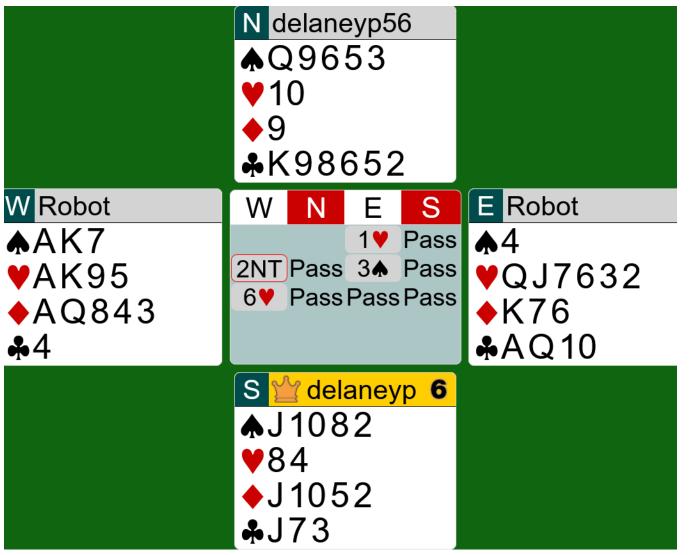
| North | South |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1S | 2 D |
| 2S | 3H |
| 3S 6+ spades | 4NT RKC 1430 |
| 5S 2/5 aces + Q♠ | 6S (or 6NT) |

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

Winning Tip: Agree than 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



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 West

1H 2D

3D 3H

4C cue bid **4D** cue bid

4H 4NT RKC 1430

5C 1 of 5 aces **5D** have you Q♥?

6D Q♥ and **K♦ 7H**

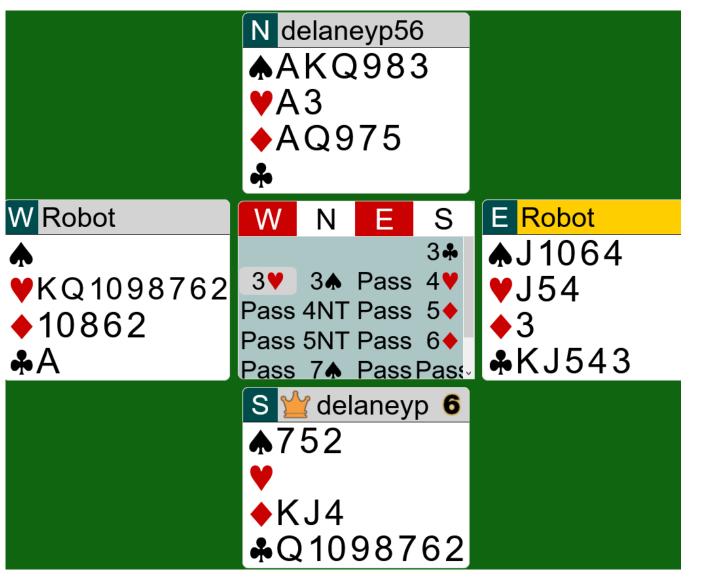
Play: 12 top tricks and a club ruff for 13 tricks.

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



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 |

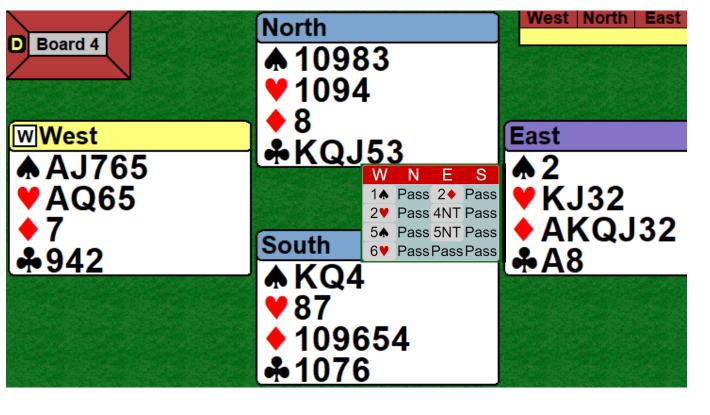
I have sympathy for any pair who bid 7S which unluckily goes down one with spades 4-0

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



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 East

1S 2D

2H 4NT RKC hearts

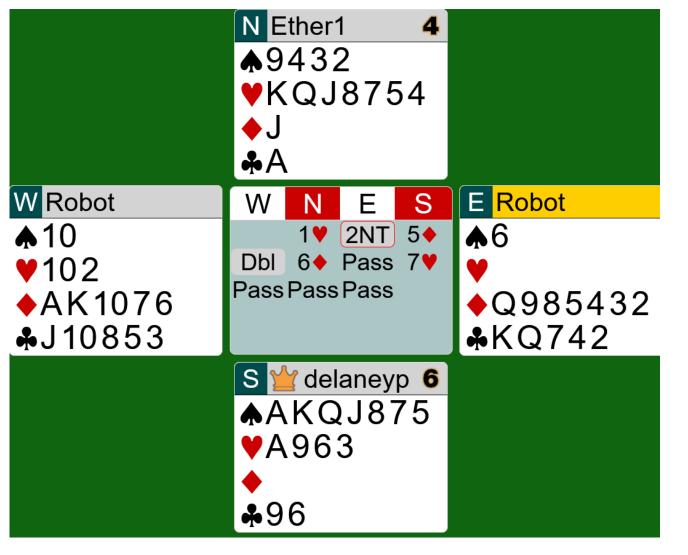
5S 2 of 5 aces with Q♥ **7H**

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



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

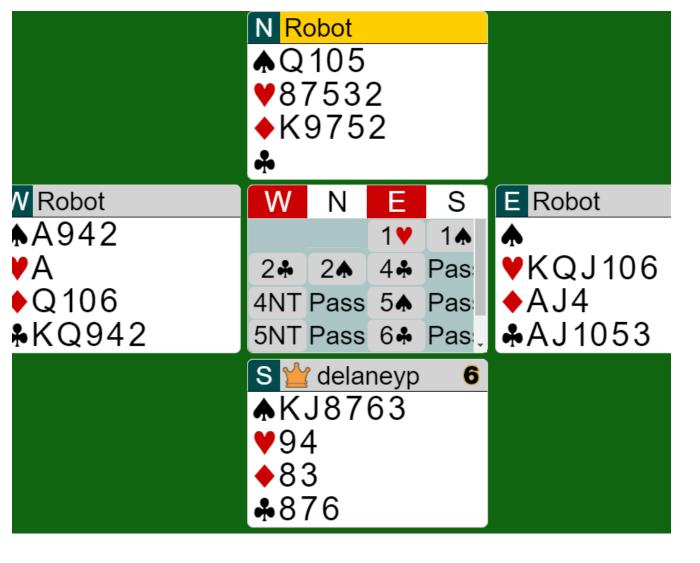
| North | East | South | West |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------|------|
| 1H | 2NT (minors) | 35 | 5D |
| 5S | 6D | 6S | Pass |
| Pass | 7 D | Pass | Pass |
| Double | | | |

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

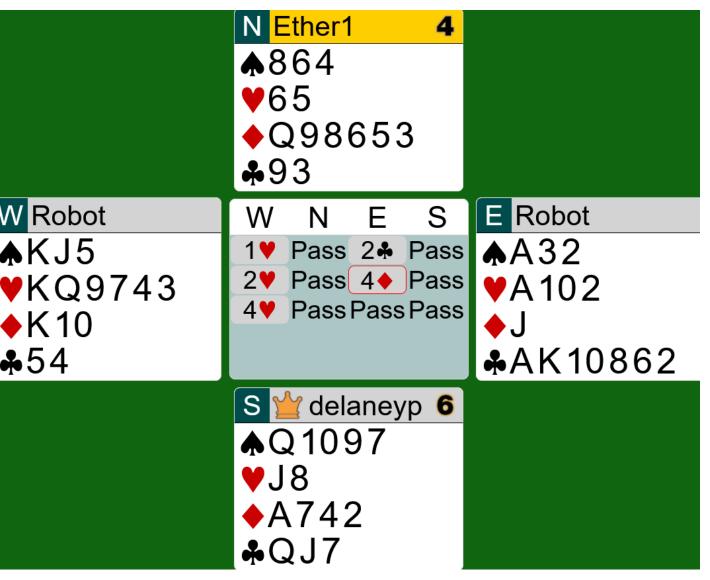
1H 2C

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.

Board 8 Dealer West Nil All

A chance for East to shine and bid 6H



Comments

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

Bidding

West East

1H 2C

2H 4NT RKC

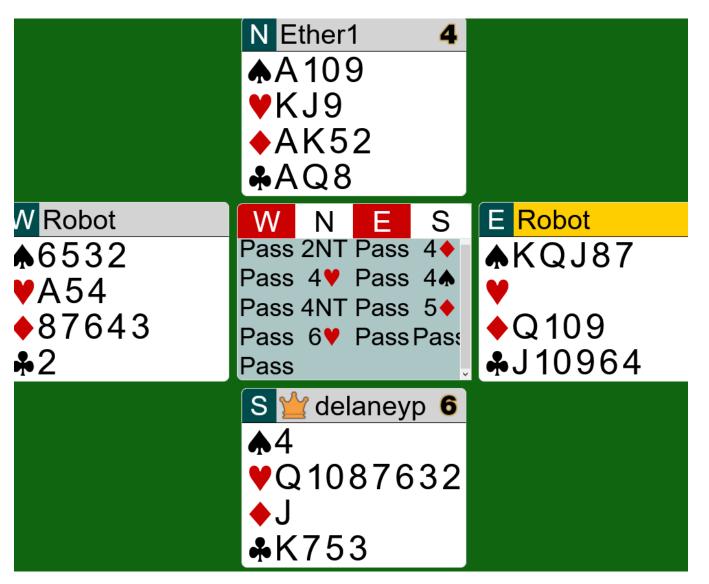
5D queen ask

5S Q♥ and K♠ **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



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 South

2NT 3D

4C cue bid with slam interest

4D 4H

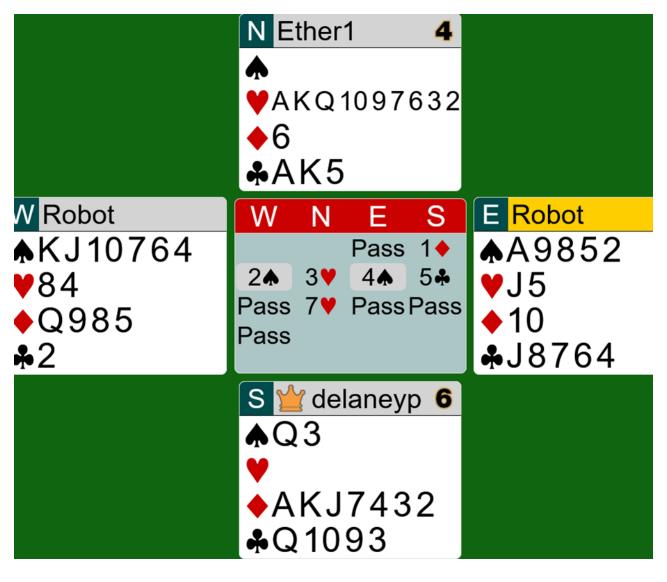
4NT RKC **5D** 0/5 aces

6H

Play: 12 tricks on top

Board 10 Dealer East Game All

A wow hand



Comments

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

Bidding

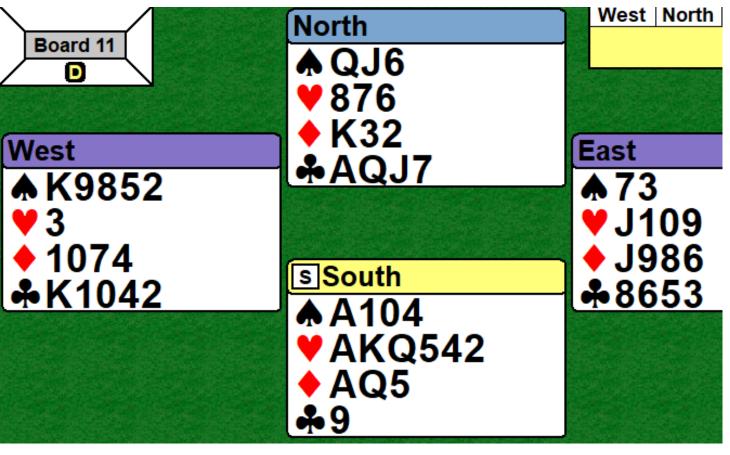
| South | West | North | East |
|------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 1 D | 2S | 3H | 45 |
| Pass | Pass | 7H | |

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



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

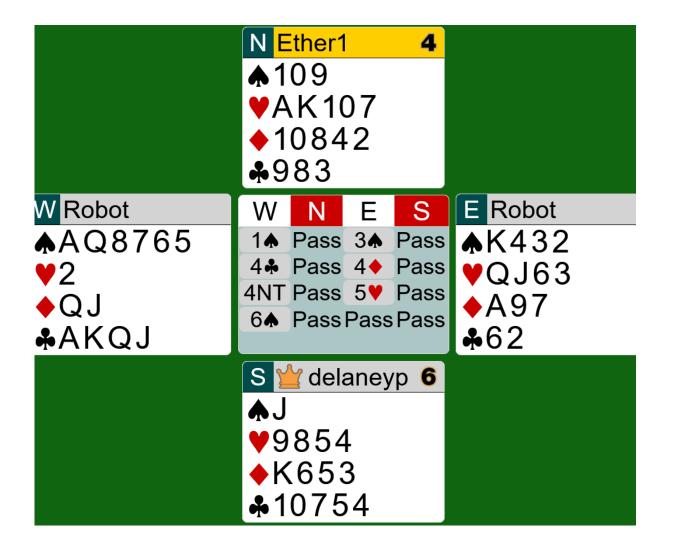
| South | North |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1H | 2C |
| 3H forcing | 4D cue bid |
| 4NT RKC | 5C |
| 5NT all 5 aces + Q♥ held | 6D one king |
| 1 6H | |

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



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♦

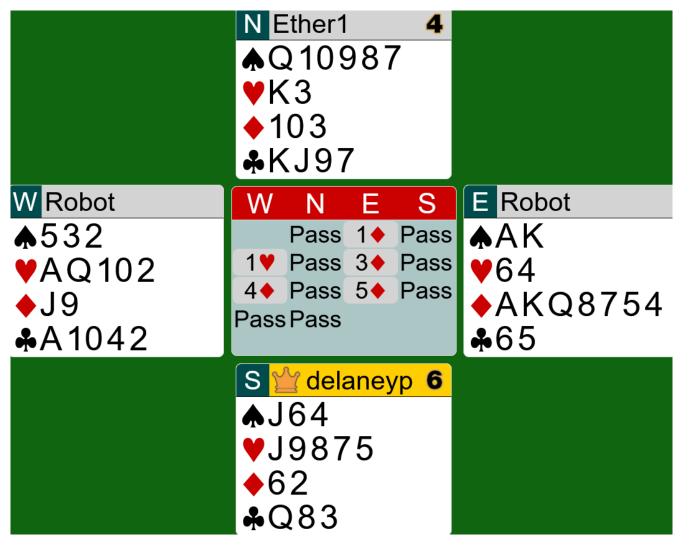
4NT 5H 2 of 5 aces no Q♠

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



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

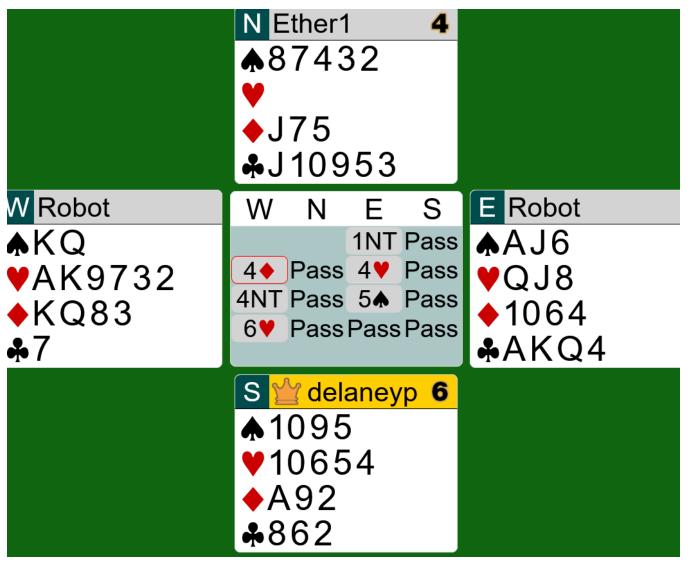
Play: On a spade lead against 3NT by West best play is to finesse 10♥ making 12 tricks.

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



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 West

1C 1H

1NT 15-17 **3D** game force

3H 3S cue bid slam interest

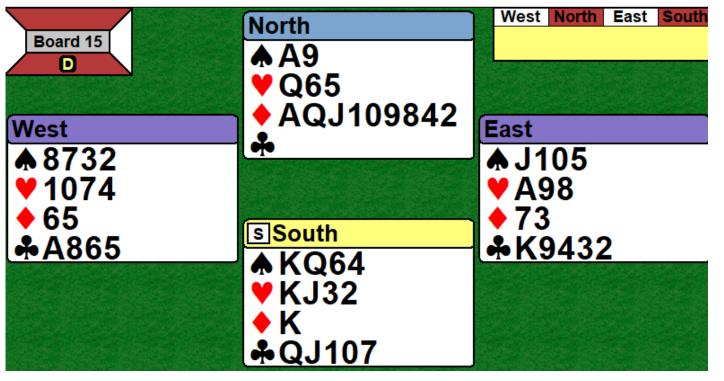
4C 4NT

5S 2 aces with Q♥ **6H**

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

Board 15 Dealer West NS Vulnerable

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



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 South

2C strong **2D** waiting

3D 8+ tricks with diamonds **3H** values

3S cue bid **4D** agrees diamonds

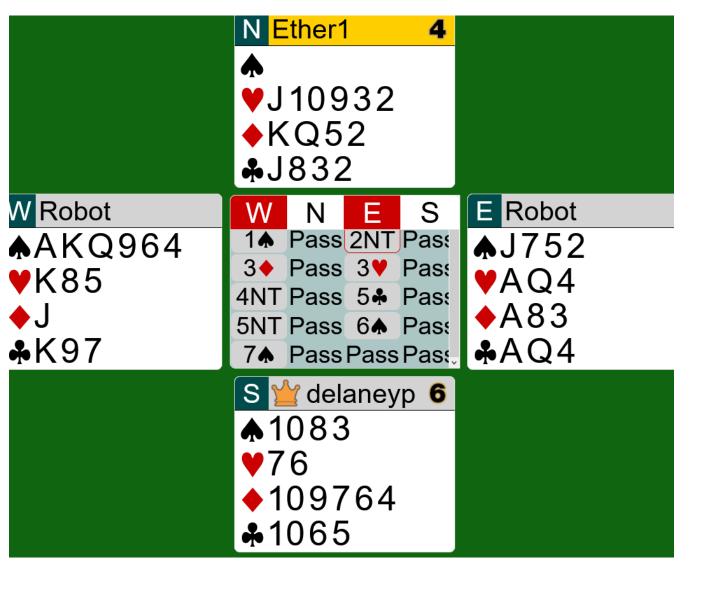
6D

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



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 East

1S 2C

4C cue bid

4D cue bid **4NT** RKC

5S 2 aces + Qs **5NT**

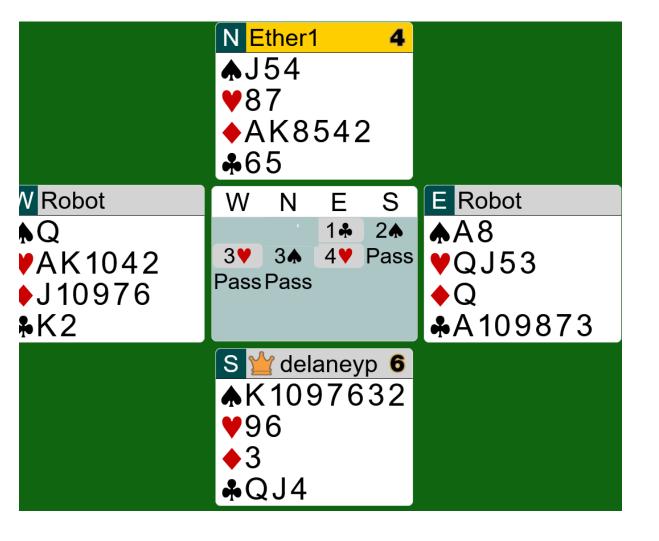
6H 2 side kings **6NT**

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.



Comments

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

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

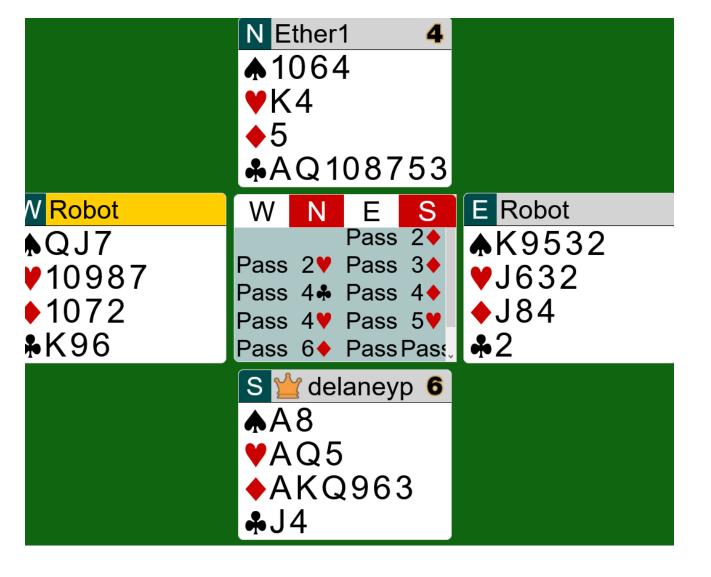
Bidding

| East | South | West | North |
|-----------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1C | 2S weak | 3H | 35 |
| 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.



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.