

# How would you bid this Hand?

By Neil H. Timm

	♠ A96	
	♥ AK872	
	♦ A83	
	♣ A6	
♠ Q32	N W E S	♠ J754
♥ Q10643		♥ 95
♦ 105		♦ 7
♣ QJ9		♣ K105432
	♠ K108	
	♥ J	
	♦ KQJ9642	
	♣ 87	

DEALER is north – what do you open?

You are playing 2/1; how do you and your partner proceed?

See next page for bidding options (there are certainly more).

The hand is from the Sunday December 2, 2017 issue of the “Dailey Sun”.

**Option 1 - Direct (2NT with Minorwood – south plays the hand)**

South	West	North	East
		2NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

With 19 HCP and one length point south opens 2NT. Playing Minorwood over 2NT, south bids 4♦ (1430 for diamonds). With four keycards, north bids 4♥ (first step 1/4). South then bids 5♦ as the specific king ask. With the heart king north bids 5♥. Missing one king, south bids 7♦ and not 7NT.

**Option 2 - Direct (2NT with Crosswood – north plays the hand)**

South	West	North	East
		2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	7♦	All Pass

To right side the contract, some play Crosswood instead of Minorwood. Then 4♣ show interest in a diamond slam. North next bids 4♦, which is again 1430 Minorwood for diamonds. With one keycard, south bids 4♥ (first step). North bids the next step 4♠ as the queens ask. The bid of 5♠ shows the Queen of diamonds and the spade king. Missing one king, north bids 7♦ and not 7NT.

**Option 3 - Direct (2NT with MSS – north plays the hand)**

South	West	North	East
		2NT	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

Some instead of Minorwood or Crosswood play Minor Suit Stayman (MSS). Now south bids 3♠\* (\*=alert) that is used to show interest in a minor suit slam (some use it as relay to 3NT – then bid 4♣ is either Gerber or Expert Gerber). Without a 4-card minor, the 2NT bidder bids 3NT (no 4-card minor). Over 3NT, south bids 4♣ as Expert Gerber (an ask asking bid - some play only Gerber). With Expert Gerber and 4 aces north bids 4♦ (1/4 aces --- the responses of 4♥ = 0/3 aces and 4♠ = 2 with min and 4NT = 2 with max). South bids 5♣ to ask for the number of kings. With one, north bids 5♦ and south again bids 7♦ and not 7NT.

Using the rule of 44, some may open north's hand 2♣. Others may use transfers, Blackwood, Gerber and other gadgets. ---- Go to Next Page – Play of the Hand

# How would you play the Hand?

## West leads the Q♣ – with south playing 7♦ (Option 1)?

South wins the opening club lead with dummy's ace, cashes the A♥ and ruffs a heart with the K♦. Declarer crosses to dummy with a low diamond to the A♦ and leads another heart. East discards a club and south ruffs the hearts drawing three rounds of trumps. This results in the following layout.

	♠ A96	
	♥ K8	
	♦ Void	
	♣ Void	
♠ Q32	N W E S	♠ J754
♥ Q10		♥ Void
♦ Void		♦ Void
♣ Void		♣ K
	♠ K108	
	♥ Void	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 8	

Everyone discarded a spade on the last trump and declarer entered dummy with the A♠. And next played the K♥. East had to play another spade to protect the clubs. South tossed the 7♣ and was able to take the last two tricks with the King and 10 of spades.

I will leave it up to you to play the hand as North. In a grand slam, east will make a passive lead and lead his singleton trump!