

# Learning Points – High Level Slam Decisions I

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**W Deals**  
**None Vul**  
 Steve

♠ 8  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ KJ1084  
 ♣ J109842

Mike

January 13, 2009. Tuesday Evening Open Pairs, Rob Weidenfeld, Director, Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070 . 19 Tables across 2 sections.

♠ AKJ6	N	♠ Q9432
♥ AQ10643	W 24 E	♥ K9
♦ A2	S	♦ Q75
♣ 7		♣ A63

Here's an example where a modest preempt by opponents got just enough in the way to deprive us of bidding room to reach the optimum contract. The question is should we bid 7 anyway?

♠ 1075  
 ♥ J872  
 ♦ 963  
 ♣ KQ5

Duplimate:  
 EW: 7N, 7♥, 7♠

## The Bidding

Don't be off-put by our Precision auction. A standard approach is very similar. Methods over the Unusual NT might vary (check with your partner).

West	North	East	South
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	2N <sup>2</sup>	3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
4N	Pass	5♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♠	Pass
Passed Out			

Because Unusual / Unusual is NOT available in our big club auction, East's 3♠ call was forcing to game and West had to face the first decision. A 4♥ would deny spade support and could be passed by partner. Simple Game rebids imply a 16 or 17 HCP hand. 4♦ would either be seen as a natural suit or a cue in support of Spades. The ensuing RKC auction led to 6♠ directly.

South leads ♣ K

- 1 = 16 HCP+, any shape (not 16-17 or 23-24 Balanced)
- 2 = Unusual NT for minors
- 3 = 8+ GF w/5+♠
- 4 = Natural force or Cue
- 5 = 1 or 4 Key Cards ♠
- 6 = Do you have the ♠Q?

The 2/1 or Standard auction would be about the same, with the added benefit of having Unusual / Unusual available. This is a

West	North	East	South
1♥	2N	3♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4N	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠??	Pass
Passed Out			

useful competitive bidding convention that helps distinguish invitational plus hands from preemptive hands when opponents commit an Unusual NT. Simply we attach conventional meanings to the cue bids of their 2 suits. There are two approaches (be sure you and your partner are on the same page here): ♣ → ♥ and ♦ → ♠ or ♣ = Opener's suit and ♦ = the 4<sup>th</sup> suit. In either case a cue bid showing support is Limit Raise or better, while a cue bid showing the 4<sup>th</sup> suit is game forcing. In the 2/1 approach, West can show extras by bidding only 3♠. With a minimum hand, jump directly to game (fast arrival).

1 = Unusual / Unusual - GF in 4<sup>th</sup> suit ♠

## The Play

13 tricks off the top. Declarer claimed once trumps were drawn and ♥ were ruffed once in hand. Surprisingly, 6♠+7 and +1010 scored 6 of 8 Match Points.

Bd 11	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9
MP	3	6	6	0.5	2	0.5	6	6	6
Score	510	1010	1010	480	500	480	1010	1010	1010

## Post Mortem

The real question is what should East do in response to the Queen of Trumps ask by partner. Jumping to 6♠ is a yes, but imagine West's excitement were East to show the ♥K on the way. At that point West can count 13 tricks at least, and the Spade Grand Slam would be bid easily. Bidding is collaborative. Notice that the NT grand slam requires a 2<sup>nd</sup> round ♥ finesse. Must be nice to have those work all the time.....