

Brian Crossley
Durham, NC

Dear Brian

We sure miss you here. Bridge still goes on, though and a recent hand reminded me of you.

You have always talked about not taking vulnerable sacrifices over non-vulnerable games. Well, at the La Crosse sectional last week Jean & I experienced the mother of all vulnerable sacrifices.

Playing in a pair/team game, you hold: 6, Q9843, A, K98752. You are vulnerable and partner in first chair opens 1H. You can raise hearts to some level, use Jacoby 2N or perhaps splinter. What is your choice?

I decided to splinter with 3S as partner does not need much to make slam. Our opponents were a couple of regulars at upper Wisconsin events who usually have their call. My LHO asked partner about my bid and at first she said weak. Unperturbed by this explanation, LHO bid a firm 4S and partner said, oh, 3S was a splinter bid. Partner now bid 5H, passed back to LHO who quickly bid a firm 5S. This is passed back to you. What do you do?

I did not think I wanted to double this lady, confident and secure in her call, nor did I want to take a vulnerable sacrifice at the 6 level, so I passed.

It turns out I should have bid 6H and when LHO bids 6S, I need to bid 7H – red versus white! The vulnerable grand slam sacrifice over their non-vulnerable small slam!

5S making 6 for -480 was worth 8 out of 12 match points (75%), so I considered this a ‘win’. In the team part we won the board when they doubled our teammates in 5S making an overtrick for +750. Happy days.

Here is the whole deal:

Dir: E

Vul: E-W

	♠ A K Q J 9 3 2	
	♥ —	
	♦ K Q 8 7 6 2	
	♣ —	
♠ 6		♠ 10 7
♥ Q 9 8 4 3		♥ A K 10 6 5
♦ A		♦ 9 5 4
♣ K 9 8 7 5 2		♣ A Q 6
	♠ 8 5 4	
	♥ J 7 2	
	♦ J 10 3	
	♣ J 10 4 3	

As you can see, both sides can make slam, a very rare situation in my bridge life.

We hope you and Judy have a great Thanksgiving and holiday season and let us know if you want to visit back here, we would love to see you.

Yours,

Steve & Jean