

A Microanalysis of a Bidding Opportunity

D 8		N		W N E S
		♠ KQ74		P 1♦ 1♠ 2♣
		♥ 3		P 2NT P 3NT
		♦ KQ76532		P P P
		♣ A		
W			E	
♠ 65			♠ AJ10832	
♥ Q109762			♥ 85	
♦ 4			♦ J9543	
♣ Q762			♣ J9543	
	S			
	♠ 9			
	♥ AKJ4			
	♦ AJ1098			
	♣ K108			
		3NT N		NS: 0 EW: 0

14 Wests opened with a weak two in hearts. I think this call makes sense at favorable vulnerability, but maybe not at equal vulnerability. At 3 of these tables 6N was reached

43 of 95 in this ACBL SYC game reached 6D

After 1D by North most Easts jumped to 2S and did not overcall 1S

The few auctions that began as yours did that reached the diamond slam are shaded

P	1♦	P	1♠	P	2♣
P	3♦	P	3♠		
P	3NT	P	4♦		
P	4NT	P	5♥		
P	6♦				

A reasonable sequence:

3D based not on hcp but playing strength
A jump in NT with the stiff CA and not knowing if South has

the DA is problematic If South doesn't start with a double you may miss a heart fit. You can force in diamonds later.

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If you are playing bridge online we hope you are having a great time! But consider this; taking the time afterwards to improve your game by looking at results, travelers and movies, AND of your bad boards, missed opportunities or missed plays can really help you to learn from them.

Studying your results will help you to learn. The great benefit of BBO is the ability to see what happens at any table, to learn from declarers who did well on a hand (sometimes they were gifted), defenders who got more tricks than you did (sometimes their declarers chose wrongly), and partnerships that reached par bidding spots that you didn't. What did they do differently that ended up being effective? Consider analyzing the auctions above. What actions taken do you like? They all ended in the par spot. Which were the most intelligent?

Start with a negative double. This hand is not a garden variety 6-8hcp neg x of a 1S overcall yet you still don't want to give up on hearts as a potential strain if your partner has four of them. A negative double IS unlimited.

This deal is not the greatest example of finding a better sequence (via BBO travelers) for your auction because so many West opened the featherlight 2H and many more Easts made a preemptive jump to 2S rather than a 1S overcall. You can think about what you would have bid after a 2S jump overcall. A negative double after RHO's preemptive jump overcall requires a better hand and you certainly have one.

On this sequence North can certainly jump to 3N after you double the 2S jump overcall. Now you go slamming. The question will be if 4D is forcing. Would you have made a negative x with:

x
KJxx
Axxxxx
xx ?

Maybe 4D suggests a neg x that isn't all that strong in hcp. You might not be making 3N and were always intending to retreat in diamonds if partner bid 2N or 3C.

If you think 4D isn't forcing what about 4C? Is that natural and nonforcing? Is that Gerber? Some play that (I don't in this sequence because you have not established a GF with your neg x.)

x
Qxxx
xx
KQJxxx

4H would surely be an offer to play.

x
QJxxxxx
xx
Kxx

4N sounds like a quantitative raise over 3N and not some kind of blackwood. How would you play it?

5N pick a slam will work well because it suggests a slam in NT if partner's stopper is not QJx and implies diamond support (you are inviting 6D inferentially).

4S cuebid is certainly pinpointing a spade control but doesn't clarify direction toward the eventual strain (diamonds most likely i guess... but what other strain could it be if not diamonds or NT. If you jump to 6D over partner's 4N over your 4S, partner will be able to convert to the top board spot of 6N. But you can still profit from looking at sequences to 6D and make some judgments about who you think engineered the best sequences

If your head is now spinning. GOOD. This kind of microanalysis is the kind of work that will lead to you becoming a more accomplished player. Just playing and hoping to absorb knowledge is a vastly slower road to competence.

**STUDY YOUR RESULTS PARTICULARLY THE LESS SUCCESSFUL ONES AND
LEARN FROM THEM. THE EFFORT WILL BE WORTH IT!**