

Analysis

I don't understand why I am the only one playing in this Slam.

- Perhaps East doesn't consider the hand good enough to open strong?
- Perhaps East is unaware of West's strengths? In our club most players use Benji Acol. If they use the simple version where 2♦ is just a relay East has to rely on West to make the running.

I was East and there are three Passes round to me. My first thoughts are that this is a good hand worthy of a strong opening bid that will show Spades as my suit. I don't care what my partner bids so long as it is not 2♦ that will end me in no better than a Game score. West can bid 2NT (my personal choice). Now, I consider my prospects:

- Partner has at least 8HCPs (that's how we play it)
- I have a 3-loser hand in both Spades and Clubs although Spades are the obvious longer suit and scores better
- Partner has set up a GAME FORCING auction (that's how we play it).
- I can bid my suit at the two level and give partner a chance to show controls
- After partner shows the Diamond first round control (that's how we play it) it is fairly easy to blitz the Slam or just bid it outright because partner doesn't need much in either Clubs or Spades to bring it home

You have to have some faith but our method gives me added confidence that partner has values so it is easy for me.

Also, you will never bid anything worth having unless you accept a degree of risk. After all, 3NT with two balanced hands and 25 HCPs only makes Game 50% of the time but we are all happy to try that aren't we?

