

Presentation Wednesday 6th June

The Jump Shift Response

I'm often asked "Andy, why is it we can't bid the Slams but we often make 12 or 13 tricks". One answer to this is the Jump Shift response. It should be reserved for strong hands only and then the responder with the good hand can work out the potential of their two hands by utilizing cue bids to find controls. I recommend the simplest approach is to cue bid first round controls only. More sophisticated method is the province of the experts

The Response

Partner has opened the bidding

If you make a jump shift response:

- What is your hand like?
- What expectations are there between you and your partner?
- How should the auction proceed?

If you stop and think and get these things right then you will bid more of the available Slams

Answers

1. You have a strong hand with a solid suit itself containing good HCP (**not just any old opening hand**).
2. Auction is now **GAME FORCING** this dramatically affects how the auction proceeds
3. Partner can cue bid first- round controls. The rules have changed, eg. you can bid a side suit void or any Ace regardless how many cards you have in that suit. The responder with the good hand needs to find out about the controls because this is how potential weaknesses are resolved

4. The original opener must let the responder take control. Giving information about the hand is the most important duty as this will assist partner in resolving any weaknesses.

This hand came up on 29th/30th May

Wed 30th May Hand 6

♠ A K Q 9 3
♥ J 7
♦ K Q 8 6 3 2
♣

Dealer E
E/W Vul

♠ J 10 5
♥ K 9 3 2
♦ 10 7
♣ J 9 4 2

♠ 8 7 6 4
♥ Q 8 5
♦ J 9
♣ Q 10 5 3

♠ 2
♥ A 10 6 4
♦ A 5 4
♣ A K 8 7 6

15
5 5
15

Double Dummy Analysis

North/South have 13 Tricks available in Diamond, Spades and NTs

Actual Results

Wednesday - Board 6 - EW vul							
NS	EW	Contract	By	NS	EW	MPs	
3	3	3NT+3	S	490		5 7	
2	1	3NT+4	N	520		10 2	
1	8	3NT+3	S	490		5 7	
9	6	3NT+4	S	520		10 2	
8	4	3NT+4	S	520		10 2	
7	2	5D+1	N	420		0 12	
6	9	5D+2	N	440		2 10	

No pairs in our beginners group bid the Slam
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Tuesday - Board 6 - EW vul

NS	EW	Contract	By	NS	EW	MPs		
2	2	7NT=	S	1520		10	0	
1	6	6D+1	N	940		6	4	
5	3	5D+2	N	440		1	9	
4	1	3NT+3	N	490		4	6	
3	4	7D=	N	1440		8	2	
6	5	5D+2	N	440		1	9	

Only half of the pairs in the more experienced group bid the Slam

Analysis

This is a hand that demands confident disciplined bidding and good partnership understanding. Even the more experience players on Tuesday evening's session didn't always find the Slam.

So how can we get there? Here is a suggested auction:

North	East	South	West
	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
2♠(3)	Pass	3♣(4)	Pass
3♠(5)	Pass	4♣(6)	Pass
4NT(7)	Pass	5♠(8)	Pass
5NT(9)	Pass	6♦(10)	Pass
7NT(11)	Pass	Pass	Pass

- 1) A strong hand with a good suit – **Game Forcing**
- 2) Cue bid
- 3) Cue bid
- 4) Cue bid (Opening bid did not guarantee Club Ace so show it now)
- 5) Cue bid (a second control – each cue bid invites partner to show more controls)
- 6) Cue bid (a second control in Clubs)
- 7) Blackwood to see how good the Slam might be
- 8) Three Aces – if playing Roman Key Card bid to agreed method eg 5♣

- 9) Blackwood
- 10) One King
- 11) Grand Slam now seems obvious but bidding Small Slam should still get a result, especially if the Slam is in NTs

General observations about the auction

Pairs that jump bid on any old opening hand will usually miss out on Slams because of confidence issues. North is therefore not revealing the true playing strength of his hand. South will never be sure what is going on and therefore cannot express the values in his hand either. Most of these pairs will easily reach Game only.



Jump overcalls in a new suit should always be reserved for a strong hand with a good suit. In these situations the original opener should stay with the plot and be prepared to let the responder do the running. The style of the auction changes. *This is analogous to when you open 1NT and you let partner decide the final outcome responding to the bids according to agreed procedure, eg. Stayman and Transfers.*

With cue bids the Opener may bid the trump suit when there are no more features left to bid. In the above example South has shown that his opening bid is good for the Club Ace (not necessarily guaranteed in the opening bid). South bids Clubs again showing a second round control. This is more positive than bidding 4♦ that could be interpreted as having no more controls rather than having the Diamond Ace. At this point North can forge ahead and blitz the Slam from there because even without the Trump Ace a Small-Slam looks certain. North finds 3 Aces and a King. Now it doesn't matter the Heart King is missing because it can be discarded on the Club King. 7NTs if you like. **Easy isn't it?**



The most important element is that partnerships must have the understanding of what is going on and must both stick to the plot. Discipline will then guide you through to a satisfactory conclusion and if the Slam is on you will bid it.