

Dummy

♠ 10964

♥ KJ98

♦ 64

♣ AK5

You

♠

♥ AQ1073

♦ AJ953

♣ Q42

This is a two part puzzle.

In Part 1, your objective is to develop a bidding sequence that gets you to a difficult but makable 6H slam. You open the bidding 1H and your LHO overcalls 1S. Construct a bidding sequence to get your side to 6H.

This is an actual hand that I encountered on BBO, and the bidding and play happened as presented. Unfortunately, I was defending and ended up losing 12 IMPS on the hand because my opponents were the only partnership to bid and make slam. There was some good news; one of my opponents was my wife Ava, so at least someone in our family benefited from the good bidding and play!

Send your answers to me: [billpuzzles@bridgesights.com](mailto:billpuzzles@bridgesights.com)

## **The Answer**

Here is a suggested bidding sequence.

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1H	1S	2S	P
3D	P	4H	P
4S	P	5C	P
6H	P	P	P

Let me explain each bid:

1. Partner's 2S is a heart raise, showing at least 4 hearts and a limit raise or better (10+ HCP).
2. At this point in the auction, from your partner's perspective, your 3D bid is a game try. 2S may be invitational, so your partner thinks your 3D bid shows diamond cards and is asking him to bid game with diamond cards or better than a limit raise. You intend to bid game in any case, but by bidding 3D, you will find out whether or not partner has better than a minimum limit raise.
3. Partner's 4H bid is an acceptance of your game try. That is good news for you, because now you can make a slam try, since partner has more than a minimum limit raise.
4. You now bid 4S showing first round control of spades. You are also asking partner if he is interested in slam. Partner now knows that your 3D bid was also a slam try, showing diamonds and/or first round control.
5. Controls (Aces and Kings, singletons and voids) are very valuable when bidding slam. Since partner has a good number of controls (an Ace and two Kings), he is still interested in slam. He therefore bids 5C, showing first round control of clubs.
6. Partner's 5C bid is very good news for you. He has shown a continued interest in slam, and first round control of clubs, meaning you have all 4 suits controlled. You can now bid 6H.