

Responder

♠K1054

♥K742

♦J1032

♣J

Opener

♠AQ

♥AQ86

♦AK

♣AQ743

This is a two part puzzle.

In the first part, 6H is a good contract. Come up with a reasonable bidding sequence to get your side to 6H.

Send your answers to me: billpuzzles@bridgesights.com

The Answer

Responder

♠K1054

♥K742

♦10432

♣J

Opener

♠AQ

♥AQ86

♦AK

♣AQ743

Opener Responder

2C 2D

2N 3C

3H 4H

4N 5C

6H

There are two key decisions that opener must make in this auction.

The first decision is what to bid over responder's 2D response. One could make a case that opener's hand is unbalanced, and therefore opener should show his 5 card suit. However, with strong holdings in all 4 suits and 22-24 HCP, opener can justify a small lie about his hand and bid 2N as a better description.

The second decision is what to do over responder's 4H bid. Normally, responder is in charge of determining the final contract in auctions where partner has shown a specific point range by opening or rebidding NT. On this auction, opener has shown 22-24 HCP with his bid, so responder ordinarily knows enough about opener's hand to best determine where the hand should be played. However, in this case, opener can override responder's decision. Opener controls all of the suits and can see that if responder has the K of hearts, it is likely that the contract will be at worst on winning one of the black suit finesses. So opener can bid Roman Key Card Blackwood, and once responder shows the one missing key card (assume the partnership is playing 1430), opener can confidently bid the slam knowing there are no missing key cards.