

Bidding Big Hands – Workshop

NG34Bridge

<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass</p> <p>2NT Pass 3♦ Pass</p> <p>3♥ Pass 3NT Pass</p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 92 ♥ J9732 ♦ J3 ♣ J432</p> <p>♠ QJ64 ♥ Q108 ♦ 104 ♣ 8675</p> <p>♠ A105 ♥ AK ♦ KQ986 ♣ AK9</p> <p>♠ K873 ♥ 654 ♦ A752 ♣ Q10</p>	<p>1. Dealer: South Lead: ♠4</p> <p>North bids a negative/waiting 2♦, and after South's 2NT rebid North is too strong to pass. North bids 3♦ (transfer to hearts) and South bids 3NT, having just two hearts. North has only five hearts so passes.</p> <p>South can count 5 top tricks (2 in ♥, 2 in ♣ and 1 in ♠). The best hope of four more tricks is in diamonds, hoping that diamonds do not split 4-2 with the ♦10 on the wrong side. On winning the spade lead South attacks diamonds right away.</p>
<p>South West North East</p> <p>2NT Pass 3♣ Pass</p> <p>3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass</p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 7653 ♥ 7542 ♦ K95 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ 109 ♥ 6 ♦ 106432 ♣ Q9874</p> <p>♠ AK82 ♥ KQ10 ♦ A7 ♣ AJ53</p> <p>♠ QJ4 ♥ AJ983 ♦ QJ8 ♣ 106</p>	<p>2. Dealer: South Lead: ♥6</p> <p>North's 3♣ is Stayman.</p> <p>Our top tricks are ♠AK, ♦AK and ♣AK. After the opening lead we should be able to make 2 heart tricks. We can also make extra tricks in trumps if the suit breaks 3-2, or by ruffing clubs in dummy. If all else fails, there is always the club finesse.</p> <p>East wins the first trick with ♥A and leads another heart, which West ruffs. West exits with a diamond.</p> <p>We've lost one of our expected hearts tricks, but we can still make the contract if the remaining trumps are breaking no worse than 3-1. We play ♠AK, on which West discards on the second round. Leaving the master trump outstanding, we play a club to ♣K, a club to ♣A and ruff a club in dummy. East overruffs and leads a heart.</p> <p>Dummy still has a trump for us to ruff our remaining losing club. We make the contract exactly, losing ♥A and two trump tricks.</p>
<p>South West North East</p> <p>2NT Pass 3♥ Pass</p> <p>4♠ Pass 4NT Pass</p> <p>5♣ Pass 6♠ Pass</p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ Q9854 ♥ KQ5 ♦ Q6 ♣ K72</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ J1096 ♦ K1074 ♣ 10985</p> <p>♠ AKJ102 ♥ A83 ♦ A3 ♣ AJ4</p> <p>♠ 76 ♥ 742 ♦ J9852 ♣ Q63</p>	<p>3. Dealer: South Lead: ♥J</p> <p>North's 3♥ is a transfer to spades. South could complete the transfer by bidding 3♠ but there is always the risk that North will pass with a very weak hand. South has great spade support and is happy to play in 4♠ regardless of North's hand so bids 4♠ directly.</p> <p>North has 12 HCP so a slam is on the cards. North bids 4NT (standard Blackwood) and when South shows all four aces North bids 6♠.</p> <p>South can see 11 top winners: 5 in ♠, 3 in ♥, 1 in ♦ and 2 in ♣. There are two losers: 1 in ♦ and 1 in ♣.</p> <p>The finesse of the ♣Q has a 50:50 chance of making the 12th trick.</p> <p>Note that even with a combined 33 HCP and ten spades including all the honours, the slam would fail if the finesse fails. This is because North South have what is known as mirror hands, where both hands have identical shape, so there is no possibility of ruffs.</p>

<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 854 ♥ 1032 ♦ 975 ♣ K432</p> <p>♠ 92 ♠ QJ1073 ♥ KQ6 ♥ J98 ♦ K10863 ♦ J4 ♣ 1076 ♣ J98</p> <p>♠ AK6 ♥ A754 ♦ AQ2 ♣ AQ5</p>	<p>4. Dealer: South Lead: ♦6</p> <p>After the opening lead we can count two top tricks in diamonds: either ♦Q wins the first trick or if East plays ♦K and we win with ♦A, then ♦Q will win the second round of the suit. To these two tricks may be added ♠AK, ♥A and ♣AKQ, making a total of eight.</p> <p>Our best chance to make a ninth trick is to find the clubs splitting 3-3, but we still need to be careful of entries. Suppose that we start by playing a club to dummy's ♣K. After winning our ♣AQ in hand, dummy's ♣4 does turn out to be a winner, but we have no way of accessing it. Forced to play out of our own hand, we would go one down.</p> <p>We can avoid this situation by following the principle of starting with honours from the short hand. After winning the first trick with ♦Q, we immediately cash ♣AQ and play a third round to dummy's ♣K. Seeing the 3-3 break, we can now cash dummy's ♣4 for our ninth trick.</p>
<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 2♠ Pass 3♣ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 654 ♥ 1075 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ6542</p> <p>♠ 1072 ♠ ♥ Q43 ♥ K9862 ♦ 10876 ♦ KQ932 ♣ K109 ♣ A83</p> <p>♠ AKQJ983 ♥ AJ ♦ AJ5 ♣ 7</p>	<p>5. Dealer: South Lead: ♠2</p> <p>With 20 points and just 4 losers (9 playing tricks) and a long major, South is too strong for a 1 level opening bid so starts with 2♣.</p> <p>Our red aces and seven trumps give us nine top tricks in hand. We can make extra tricks by ruffing diamonds in dummy.</p> <p>We might as well let dummy's ♠4 win the first trick. We play a diamond to ♦A and ruff a diamond. We re-enter hand with ♥A and ruff our last diamond in dummy.</p> <p>We can't immediately draw trumps, but we can lead any card from dummy. West wins and leads a trump, so we draw the remaining trump and claim four more trump tricks. Making eleven tricks.</p> <p>Note: if East had been on lead at trick 6 and continued the suit that we led at trick 5, we would play safe by ruffing high. We would still have enough high trumps to draw West's remaining trumps and make an overtrick.</p>
<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass 3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass</p> <p>♠ QJ9753 ♥ 42 ♦ 752 ♣ 96</p> <p>♠ A102 ♠ 64 ♥ 965 ♥ QJ108 ♦ 1098 ♦ AJ63 ♣ Q742 ♣ 1083</p> <p>♠ K8 ♥ AK73 ♦ KQ4 ♣ AKJ5</p>	<p>6. Dealer: South Lead: ♥6</p> <p>North's 3♥ is a transfer to spades.</p> <p>South should draw trumps and led twice towards the diamond honours in South's hand. As the cards lie South should make eleven tricks, losing one diamond trick and one spade trick</p>

<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass</p> <p>2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass</p> <p>4NT Pass 5♦ Pass</p> <p>6♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 10875</p> <p>♥ Q8</p> <p>♦ 1042</p> <p>♣ AQ64</p> <p>♠ 964</p> <p>♥ 9543</p> <p>♦ J76</p> <p>♣ 532</p> <p>♠ 2</p> <p>♥ 76</p> <p>♦ KQ9853</p> <p>♣ KJ87</p> <p>♠ AKQJ3</p> <p>♥ AKJ102</p> <p>♦ A</p> <p>♣ 109</p>	<p>7. Dealer: South Lead: ♣3</p> <p>North has 8 HCP but bids 2♦, a waiting bid, with no good 5+ card suit.</p> <p>We have 12 top tricks. How might we make an overtrick? One possibility is to finesse ♣Q at trick one, but we might come unstuck if West's ♣3 was singleton.</p> <p>We can in fact make 13 tricks provided that trumps aren't 4-0. We win the first trick with ♣A, draw trumps and unblock ♥Q. We continue with four more rounds of hearts, discarding clubs from dummy. We ruff our losing club in dummy</p>
<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass</p> <p>2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass</p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 64</p> <p>♥ 9632</p> <p>♦ J102</p> <p>♣ 8432</p> <p>♠ QJ82</p> <p>♥ 107</p> <p>♦ 973</p> <p>♣ AKJ9</p> <p>♠ 10973</p> <p>♥ J4</p> <p>♦ K865</p> <p>♣ 1075</p> <p>♠ AK5</p> <p>♥ AKQ85</p> <p>♦ AQ4</p> <p>♣ Q6</p>	<p>8. Dealer: South Lead: ♣A</p> <p>South's 2♥ rebid is game forcing. North could make a 2NT rebid (second negative) showing a very weak hand, but with 4 card heart support and spade shortage South bids game.</p> <p>West starts off with ♣AK and switches to ♠Q. Barring a 4-0 heart break we have 8 top tricks: 5 trumps, ♠AK and ♦A.</p> <p>We have no prospect of an additional trick in either black suit, so to make this contract we need to make three tricks in diamonds.</p> <p>If East holds ♦K, we can lead ♦J from dummy and run it if East plays low. We can repeat the finesse by playing small to ♦Q.</p> <p>There is however a problem: how are we going to reach dummy twice to lead North's diamonds?</p> <p>The position becomes clearer when we draw trumps and find that they break 2-2. We cross to dummy with a trump. Now play the diamonds as described above and claim 10 tricks when East turns up with ♦K.</p>
<p>North East South West</p> <p>2♦ Pass 2♣ Pass</p> <p>3♥ Pass 2♥ Pass</p> <p>5♦ Pass 4NT Pass</p> <p>6♥ All Pass</p> <p>♠ 82</p> <p>♥ K865</p> <p>♦ 742</p> <p>♣ AQ84</p> <p>♠ 1094</p> <p>♥ 3</p> <p>♦ K1053</p> <p>♣ K9732</p> <p>♠ 7653</p> <p>♥ 1094</p> <p>♦ J86</p> <p>♣ J65</p> <p>♠ AKQJ</p> <p>♥ AQJ72</p> <p>♦ AQ9</p> <p>♣ 10</p>	<p>9. Dealer: South Lead: ♣K</p> <p>North's 3♥ bid shows a stronger hand than if he had bid 4♥ (Principle of Fast Arrival). South has just three losers so bids Blackwood and when North shows the ♣A South bids the slam.</p> <p>South draws trumps and discards two diamond losers on his spades. he then successfully finesses his ♦Q, plays his ♣A and another club which he ruffs in hand and then plays the ♦A and ruffs a diamond in dummy, making 13 tricks.</p>

<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass</p> <p>2NT Pass 3NT Pass</p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 87</p> <p>♥ AJ6</p> <p>♦ J743</p> <p>♣ J754</p> <p>♠ 1063</p> <p>♥ 85</p> <p>♦ 52</p> <p>♣ AQ10863</p> <p>♠ AKQ</p> <p>♥ KQ104</p> <p>♦ AK6</p> <p>♣ K92</p>	<p>10. Dealer: South Lead: ♣8</p> <p>With 31 points between the two hands we shouldn't have any difficulty in making 3NT and indeed we have nine top tricks outside clubs. We also have prospects for extra tricks in either minor suit.</p> <p>If ♣8 is a fourth highest lead we can use the rule of 11. We subtract 8 from 11 to give 3, the number of higher cards that aren't in West's hand. Dummy's ♣J and our ♣K9 indicate that East can't beat the 8. In any case we play low from dummy and win the first trick with ♣9. This gives us our tenth trick.</p> <p>What about a second overtrick? We might be able to make a third trick in diamonds, but we do much better to play on clubs. East is void in the suit, so we know that West has ♣AQ1063 remaining.</p> <p>We therefore play back ♣2 (or ♣K) at trick 2. West wins and switches to diamonds, but we win in hand and lead our remaining club. West wins and leads another diamond, but we win in hand, enter dummy in hearts and discard our losing diamond on dummy's ♣J. We claim the rest with our winners in hand. Eleven tricks made.</p>
<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass</p> <p>2♠ Pass 4♠ Pass</p> <p>6♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ J5432</p> <p>♥ 863</p> <p>♦ QJ</p> <p>♣ Q65</p> <p>♠ 98</p> <p>♥ J1095</p> <p>♦ 9765</p> <p>♣ 1074</p> <p>♠ AKQ1076</p> <p>♥ AKQ</p> <p>♦ A2</p> <p>♣ A2</p>	<p>11. Dealer: South Lead: ♥J</p> <p>With 11 top tricks, we need to find an extra trick from one of the minor suits. To start with, we win the opening lead in hand and cash ♠AK. We're retaining North's ♠J, since it represents our only entry to dummy.</p> <p>In diamonds we could make an extra trick if East holds ♦K. In clubs we could make an extra trick if West holds ♣K. We need to try clubs first, since if East holds ♣K, we can always fall back on the diamond finesse.</p> <p>At trick 4, therefore, we cash ♣A and play a second round towards North's ♣Q. In practice East wins with ♣K and returns a heart which we win in hand.</p> <p>We now play for our second chance by entering dummy with ♠J and leading one of dummy's diamond honours. East plays low and we play low from hand. When West also plays low we can claim the rest of the tricks.</p>
<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 3♦ Pass</p> <p>3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass</p> <p>4NT Pass 5♦ Pass</p> <p>5NT Pass 6♦ Pass</p> <p>7♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ 10742</p> <p>♥ 8</p> <p>♦ KJ653</p> <p>♣ A108</p> <p>♠ J953</p> <p>♥ Q5</p> <p>♦ Q1087</p> <p>♣ 964</p> <p>♠ AKQ86</p> <p>♥ AK3</p> <p>♦ A4</p> <p>♣ KQJ</p>	<p>12. Dealer: South Lead: ♥J</p> <p>This is obviously a very good contract. If trumps break no worse than 3-1 we have 12 top tricks: 5 ♠s, 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and 3 ♣s. Our thirteenth trick would be a heart ruff in dummy. Since dummy has four trumps we can afford to draw them all first.</p> <p>We therefore win the first trick with ♥A and cash ♠A, but West discards. Fortunately, we still have ♠KQ8 over East's ♠J95, so we can avoid losing a trick in spades by taking two (marked) finesses, but we can no longer afford to draw all the trumps before taking the heart ruff.</p> <p>The simplest line is to ruff the small heart at trick 3. Now play ♠10 from dummy. If East ducks, draw trumps and claim. If East covers, win with ♠K, enter dummy with a minor suit and play ♠7.</p> <p>Finesse ♠8, draw the last trump and claim the rest.</p> <p>It's important not to cash ♥K before taking the heart ruff, since East would then be able to make ♠J by means of an overruff.</p>

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<p>South West North East</p> <p>2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass</p> <p>2NT Pass 3♦ Pass</p> <p>3♥ Pass 3NT Pass</p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>♠ J2</p> <p>♥ J9732</p> <p>♦ 53</p> <p>♣ J432</p> <p>♠ Q964</p> <p>♥ QT86</p> <p>♦ 104</p> <p>♣ 865</p> <p>♠ K87</p> <p>♥ 54</p> <p>♦ AJ72</p> <p>♣ Q1097</p> <p>♠ AT53</p> <p>♥ AK</p> <p>♦ KQ986</p> <p>♣ AK</p>	<p>14. Dealer: South Lead: ♠4</p> <p>Our ♠A, ♥AK and ♣AK give us five top tricks. By playing low from dummy at trick one we can guarantee ourselves a second trick in spades, since if East plays an honour we can win and leave ourselves with ♠J10 as equals against the remaining honour.</p> <p>Even with two spade tricks, we'll need to make three tricks from diamonds. We're handicapped by not having an entry to dummy, but our intermediates in diamonds could come in useful.</p> <p>At trick 1 East plays ♠K, which we win with ♠A. We start to establish our diamonds by leading ♦K, which East wins with ♦A. East plays a spade to West's ♠Q and West knocks out our ♠10. When East follows suit, we know that we can't lose more than one more spade trick.</p> <p>We continue with ♦Q and are pleased to see West's ♦10 fall. We lead ♦9 to knock out East's ♦J. We win the return and cash the rest of our winners, conceding the last trick to West. Nine tricks made.</p>