

### 36. Missing a 33-count 6NT

Having debunked high-card points in last Friday's lesson, it must be said that they are a good guide for notrump bidding. Using the 33-point guideline to determine whether to bid 6NT will certainly help you.

Partner has opened 1NT (12-14). What would you respond with these hands?

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| ♠AQ7  | ♠AQ7  | ♠AQ7  |
| ♥KJ8  | ♥KJ8  | ♥KJ8  |
| ♦AK63 | ♦A963 | ♦AQ63 |
| ♣A97  | ♣A97  | ♣A97  |

With the first, the partnership must have 33 points. Jump straight to 6NT. With the second, the partnership cannot have the 33 points, so settle for 3NT (there's no point in bidding beyond game unless you're looking for slam). With the third, you may or may not have the 33 points for 6NT. Bid 4NT as a quantitative invitation for 6NT.

You opened 1NT and partner bid 4NT. What now with these?

|       |       |        |
|-------|-------|--------|
| ♠KJ3  | ♠KJ3  | ♠KJ3   |
| ♥Q94  | ♥Q94  | ♥Q104  |
| ♦J542 | ♦K542 | ♦K9542 |
| ♣KQ10 | ♣KQ10 | ♣KJ    |

With the first, 12 barren points, pass 4NT. The second is maximum, 14 points, so jump to 6NT, accepting the invitation. The third is in the middle of point-range but the five-card suit swings it: jump to 6NT (or, perhaps, 6♦ to offer a choice of slams).

#### What Happened

It was just as well North misbid and the partnership stopped in 4NT, for South made no more than his ten top tricks, running ♥J for his 11th, the finesse failing.

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

|        |  |        |
|--------|--|--------|
| ♠KQ3   |  | ♠854   |
| ♥AK2   |  | ♥Q85   |
| ♦AK42  |  | ♦10965 |
| ♣Q73   |  | ♣KJ4   |
| ♠J1092 |  |        |
| ♥9743  |  |        |
| ♦83    |  |        |
| ♣986   |  |        |
|        | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     N<br/>W E<br/>S                 </div> |        |
|        | ♠A76   |        |
|        | ♥J106  |        |
|        | ♦QJ7   |        |
|        | ♣A1052   |        |

#### What Happened

| S   | W    | N      | E   |
|-----|------|--------|-----|
| 1NT | Pass | 4NT(1) | end |

(1) Mistakenly thinks she's asking for aces (not after notrumps). South naturally passes, holding a minimum 12 points.

Contract: 4NT, Opening Lead: ♠J

#### What Should Have Happened

| S   | W    | N      | E   |
|-----|------|--------|-----|
| 1NT | Pass | 6NT(1) | end |

(1) Knows the partnership have 33 points.

Contract: 6NT, Opening Lead: ♠J

#### What Should Have Happened

Declarer 6NT, declarer wins ♠J lead with ♠A and, needing extra tricks from clubs, at trick two leads ♣2 towards ♣Q. East wins ♣K and returns ♠8 to dummy's ♠Q and declarer tries a second club finesse, leading to ♣10. This time successful, she cashes ♣A and, the 3-3 split revealed, enjoys the lucky 13th club and no longer needs to run ♥J for her 12th trick.

Slam made, and note in particular the correct way to play the club suit — low to the queen; low back to the ten.

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