

36- 2023 – Grand Slam or Just a Slam?

This one came up at the Club this week, you sit South

Dealer S Nil Vul

THE FULL HAND

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | NORTH | |
| | KJ952 | |
| | A4 | |
| | 862 | |
| | AJ5 | |
| | | |
| WEST | | EAST |
| Q873 | | 64 |
| 9863 | | QJ102 |
| 1094 | | J3 |
| 96 | | Q10732 |
| | | |
| | SOUTH | |
| | A10 | |
| | K75 | |
| | AKQ75 | |
| | K84 | |

BIDDING

| | S | W | N | E |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | 1D | P | 1S | P |
| | 2NT (1) P | | 4NT (2) P | |
| | 5H (3) P | | 5NT (4) P | |
| | 6S (5) P | | 7S (6) P | |

- (1) 18-19 balanced, denies 3-card Spade support
- (2) Blackwood
- (3) 2 Aces
- (4) King Ask
- (5) 3 Kings
- (6) North knows they have all the Aces and Kings, so bids 7S (!)

THE PLAY

East led HQ

The Contract is doomed – eventually, West will make SQ, or East will make HQ or CQ

To make Grand Slam (which is very rare), you need to have a bit more with North – add in SQ and it is much more likely to make

COMMENT

The safest and best Contract here is 6NT. Provided South plays on Spades immediately, South will make 4 Spades, 2 Hearts, 5 Diamonds and 2 Clubs = 12 Tricks

MORAL OF THE STORY

Any 7 - level contract is risky, as any simple gap in the cards can take it down (Queens, Jacks and even 10s are paramount, or a long suit to run)

Usually, if you bid and make a 6 - level contract, you will score very well

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

11 November 2023