

For a Future LSBC Newsletter and a Corner

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Bidding a makeable 7NT through proper hand evaluation.

10	7NTS=	2220	14.6	
11	2♠S+1	140	3.4	
12	3♠N+1	170	4.9	
			32.4	10.0

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following details:

- Contract:** 10♦ (displayed in a red-bordered box).
- North (Robot):** ♠AJ2, ♥Q108, ♦KJ8, ♣AJ64.
- West (Robot):** ♠Q965, ♥6543, ♦72, ♣1073.
- East (Robot):** ♠108743, ♥J72, ♦543, ♣Q5.
- South (texasashen):** ♠K, ♥AK9, ♦AQ1096, ♣K982.
- Bidding Sequence:**
 - West: Pass
 - North: 2NT
 - East: Pass
 - South: 7NT
 - West: Pass
 - North: Pass
 - East: Pass
 - South: Pass
- Score:** 7NT South, 0-0.

S 2NT (19 hcp + 1 for the good 5 card diamond suit = 20. Bergen tells us that we should add a point for 3 aces. We have 2, so we don't add a point but that's an extra. We also have nice intermediates. That's an extra. The singleton King of spades prevented the others from opening 2NT despite having the proper strength and close to the proper distribution. The singleton King of spades, encourages me to bid 2NT. If we end up in a notrump contract, I want the lead coming to the South hand. It is highly unlikely that if West has the ace that West will lead it. It is usually incorrect to lead an unsupported ace. But there's a reasonable chance West will have 4+ spades (after all there are 12 out) and will lead 4th best and as long as East doesn't have the ace, I will make the King. Also if partner has length in spades and transfers me there the King of spades is worth about the same as 2 small in a suit contract.

Sure, there is a scenario where the 2NT bid will work out badly for me, but most of the time it will work to my advantage. If the opponents know that I routinely do this

and lead out the ace of spades, it might work out well for them (depending on partner's spade holding) on this deal, but most of the time I won't have a singleton King and it will work out well for me.)

N 7NT (16 hcp + the 20 to 21 points I showed with the 2NT bid = 36-37 points. It takes about 37 points to make 7NT on pure power/high cards. North does not have a long suit. North does have a useful 10. I would have checked for aces to be sure we weren't off one. But North made the aggressive 7NT bid.)

I have these top tricks:

2 Spades

3 Hearts

5 Diamonds

2 Clubs 12 total tricks.

So, I need one more.

Looks like the Grand is dependent on picking up a third club trick. Probably will take a losing finesse in clubs and will go down. However, I will take all my winners first to get the defense to discard. I will see if either defender discards a club. It's unlikely that a defender will discard a club from Qxx until they are squeezed.

I think I have a better than 50% chance of making this slam, although it's incorrect to risk a small slam on a speculative grand slam.

Fortunately for me, West leads the 3 of clubs (hello Queen) and my problems are over. Defense is hard,

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Contract:** 7NT South
- Score:** 1-0
- North (Robot):** ♠AJ2, ♥Q108, ♦KJ8, ♣AJ6
- West (Robot):** ♠Q965, ♥6543, ♦72, ♣107
- East (Robot):** ♠108743, ♥J72, ♦543, ♣5
- South (texashen):** ♠K, ♥AK9, ♦AQ1096, ♣982
- Lead:** ♣4 (Queen of Clubs)
- Discards:** ♣3, ♣Q, ♣K
- Trick Count:** 10 (highlighted in a red box)

No one else opened 2NT and no one else played 7NT.