

WORDS OF WISDOM

... by Bill Wisdom

		North (Dealer)	
		♠ Q J	
		♥ 10 9 5 4 2	
		♦ 7	
		♣ K Q J 5 2	
	West		East
	♠ K 9 3 2		♠ A 10 7 5 4
Vul: N-S	♥ A K 7		♥ Q 6 3
	♦ A K J 8 6 5		♦ Q 4
	♣ -		♣ 7 6 4
		South	
		♠ 8 6	
		♥ J 8	
		♦ 10 9 3 2	
		♣ A 10 9 8 3	

This hand comes from the February Unit game. Looking at the E-W cards, what would you like the final contract to be?

With good guessing in trumps, you can even make a grand slam!! Yet, only four pairs out of 18 bid slam; all settled for 6 spades. Eleven pairs played 4♠, with ten declarers taking all the tricks. Three pairs didn't get to game, two played 3♦ and one played 3♠.

After three passes, West opens 1♦ and East responds 1♠ ... providing North doesn't stick in a nuisance bid. What should West do now? The hand is simply too good not to insist on game.

I decided to make an aggressive bid because it wouldn't take too much out of partner to make slam. How can you find out what you need to know?

I decided to try 5♠, which asked about the quality of partner's spades. Since he could have 4 small spades, he bid 6♠ with A 10 X X X. This was a lucky bid but, even with Q X X X X of spades, slam would have had a chance.