

Javea Bridge

Friday January 5th 2018

An earlier hand showed how important it can be to play your small slam in 4-4 fit rather than no-trumps. This situation arose again recently and, once again, the slam in no trumps with a flattish 32 points fails while the slam in spades makes.

It is not usually a good idea to bid 6N on 32 or 33 points without the expectation of a long (6+) suit to run.

Wed 06 December	North Bd6 Dealer E, EW Vul.	
	♠ JT42	
	♥ A432	
	♦ K5	
	♣ A82	
West		East
♠ K87		♠ 93
♥ KT65		♥ 87
♦ 74		♦ JT862
♣ T653		♣ J974
	South	
	♠ AQ65	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ AQ93	
	♣ KQ	

32 points and balanced. This time 6NT has no chance (although Lynn, as South, managed to make 12 tricks in 4N with a diamond lead – I cannot work out how).

6S makes easily with an extra spade trick by ruffing a heart (after throwing one on the third club winner).

While many think the world would be a better place with no Trumps that does not affect the bridge probabilities

Of course there are no absolutes in Bridge – you will come across hands where 6N is better than 6 of the 4-4 fit – but not often.

In anticipation of next week's hand I ask you under what circumstances you would double a freely bid slam?

PRH