

A Grand Feeling:

 AKJT75
 5
 AKQ7
 A8

You are sitting West and your partner opens the bidding 1H. You respond 1S and are pleasantly surprised when partner raises to 2S which indicates partner holds (at least) four spades in your system. With a plethora of points between the two hands you ask for Aces and Kings and partner says that she has one of each.

What do you bid?

Thoughts:

There is a thumb rule that says you should bid a small slam with a 50% chance of making and a grand slam with a 75% chance. What are the odds here?

Apart from telling you that she had the AH and either the KH or KC, partner has also passed on some other interesting information. She must have at least five hearts for her opening as well as her four spades.

If you count your potential tricks you should have 6 x spade tricks in your hand as well as 3 x diamonds and the AH which makes 10 and your partner's Ace and King give you two more making 12 in total. However, your partner has only four cards in the minors meaning you should have no problem getting another trick by ruffing your small diamond in the dummy.

This is about as far as you need think it through before bidding 7S but the only unlikely scenarios are an outlandish distributions in hearts or diamonds which might give South a chance to ruff a red suit lead or, perhaps, more within the realms of possibility, if North holds Qxx in spades. A 3-0 split can occur 22% of the time and therefore North could hold the three outstanding trumps 11% of the time but that assumes the Q is one of those cards which reduces the chances much further.

Your odds should therefore be far better than 75% so you should bid the grand slam with a high degree of confidence.

On the day, Friday July 10, only one East-West pair bid the grand while the other seven bid the small slam and recorded less than 50% on the board for their caution.

BOARD 2					
BD: 2	♠ 9 ♥ T9874 ♦ 964 ♣ QJ42				Dlr: E
					Vul: NS
♠ AKJT75					♠ Q842
♥ 5					♥ AQJ63
♦ AKQ7					♦ T5
♣ A8					♣ K6
	♠ 63 ♥ K2 ♦ J832 ♣ T9753				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N					
S					
E	2	6	5	7	7
W	2	6	5	7	7

		3	
21			12
		4	