

















Hand 8, 9/4/2014:

Dealer South, None Vul.

	North		East
	 K		
West	 J 7 4 3		
 9 5 4 3	 A J 9 7 4		 J 10 8 7 6 2
 9 2	 J 8 7		 6 5
 10 8 6 5 2			 K Q
 10 4			 6 3
	South		
	 A Q		
	 A K Q 10 8		
	 3		
	 A K Q 9 5		

The most interesting feature of this Hand from Wednesday 9th in RBC was the fact that while it's blindingly obvious that Slam (either!) is on, how to get there is the question - without using Splinter Bidding & Roman Key-Card Blackwood. The Bidding could have gone:

	S	W	N	E
	2C	P	2D	P(1)
	2H(2)	P	3D	P
	4C(3)	P	4H	P
	5C(4)	P	5H	P
	6H or NT (5)		All Pass	

(1) 3 Spades (Benjamin) here would really have put the cat amongst the pigeons!!
(2) Eight Playing Tricks in Hearts. (3) Gerber (4) Asking for Kings.
(5) With all the Aces and 3 Kings, this is a very easy bid to make. (3D implies Heart support). The shame here is that there is no way to show the South's Clubs. Furthermore, the 3D bid shows a Game going hand, but with strength elsewhere, so the Grand will hinge on a Finesse for the missing King. With Splinter Bids and Roman Key Card Blackwood, arriving at the Grand Slam in Hearts is simple. The really interesting feature is how would N/S handle the true sequence, given that North was in fact the Dealer, and a Two Spade bid from East would upset South badly. I'll deal with that some other time.....