

7. Slams, by George!

By Ron Klinger

Today's deals arose in teams' matches played on BBO. They feature successes by George Kozakos – George Smolanko, members of the current Australian Seniors' Team.

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ KQ72	
	♥ J93	
	♦ AKJ7	
	♣ A2	
West		East
♠ 64		♠ 5
♥ Q862		♥ K1054
♦ 984		♦ Q10532
♣ K976		♣ Q104
	South	
	♠ AJ10983	
	♥ A7	
	♦ 6	
	♣ J853	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Smolanko</i>		<i>Kozakos</i>
			1♠
Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♠ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♦ ⁽³⁾	Pass	3NT ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	4♣ ⁽⁵⁾	Pass	4♥ ⁽⁶⁾
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥ ⁽⁷⁾
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- (1) Game-force, 4+ spades
- (2) Minimum opening
- (3) Tell me more.
- (4) Short in diamonds
- (5) Cue-bid
- (6) Heart control, singleton diamond
- (7) Two key cards, no ♠Q

The play was straightforward: draw trumps, cash ♦A, ♦K, ditching the ♥7, ♣A, concede a club and ruff two clubs in dummy later, North-South +980. That was worth 11 Imps. The auction at the other table:

West	North	East	South
			2♠ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♦ ⁽³⁾
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- (1) Weak two
 - (2) Inquiry
 - (3) Short in diamonds
- North-South +480.

Partner opens 1NT. The opponents pass throughout.
What is your approach as responder with:

♠ A8762
♥ Q4
♦ AKJ1097
♣ --

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

	North	
	♠ A8762	
	♥ Q4	
	♦ AKJ1097	
	♣ --	
West		East
♠ 1094		♠ J53
♥ 8753		♥ AJ9
♦ 65		♦ 82
♣ 9762		♣ AJ854
	South	
	♠ KQ	
	♥ K1062	
	♦ Q43	
	♣ KQ103	

West	North <i>Kozakos</i>	East	South <i>Smolanko</i>
			1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♦ ⁽³⁾
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	4♠ ⁽⁵⁾
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

(1) 15-17

(2) Transfer to diamonds

(3) Not a great hand for diamonds

(4) Sets diamonds as trumps, asks for key cards

(5) 0 or 3

West led the ♥5. East took the ♥A. South made the rest +1370. That was worth 13 Imps. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
			1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣ ⁽³⁾	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	4♠ ⁽⁵⁾
Pass	5♣ ⁽⁶⁾	Dble	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 15-17

(2) Transfer to spades

(3) Transfer to diamonds

(4) Asking for key cards for diamonds

(5) 0 or 3

(6) Cue-bid

Declarer made 12 tricks, +620. South might have passed the double of 5♣. North would then redouble to show first-round control and maybe 6♦ could have been reached.

*Decided to take an ocean cruise
Became seasick, drank too much booze
The boat was so rocky
I threw up souvlaki
No masterpoints – forgot to pay dues.
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