

Nicks First Grand Slam

My partner Nick Clayton has been playing bridge for just over two years. As we know, Grand Slams don't come up too often, and we have a tendency not to bid them when playing Pairs unless they are 100% obvious to bid. One tends to get a good result being in a small slam making 13 tricks so why risk improving a 75% to a 95% when the downside is converting a 75% to a 0%?

In our Team Match between **The Terrific Twos** (us) and **The Four Dummies** this was the first hand we picked up

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: North/South

North (Me)

AQ8

A105

J5

AK852

South (Nick)

KJ10643

KQ9

AK8

3

The bidding was as follows:

Nick	Me
1 ♠	2 NT(1)
3 ♣(2)	3 ♥(3)
4 ♦(3)	4 NT(4)
5 ♥(5)	5 NT(6)
6♦ (7)	7 ♠(8)

1. A game forcing balanced raise with Support. We are willing to use it with 3 good cards, and AQ8 is good enough.
2. Nick shows a better than minimum opener with shortness (single or void in Clubs)
3. Showing controls in Hearts and Diamonds
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood
5. Two out of 5 controls without the Queen of trumps
6. Asking for Specific Kings
7. Showing the King of Diamonds and denying the King of Clubs
8. I now know that Nick has ♠ Kxxxx,♥? ♦AK, ♣x.

Thats 10 hcp and he has promised extras.

With 3 jacks Nick would still have a hand he would have regarded as a minimum, so I can not believe that the grand slam can be worse than a finesse so I bid it.

Nick probably was close to getting a heart attack, but with 13 'Aces' it didn't prove too difficult and a good 13 IMP to 'the good guys', and Nick's first grand slam scalp in his belt.

Espen Gísvold