OH, THOSE LONG SUITS

Your partner is the dealer and opens 1♥. This is your hand:



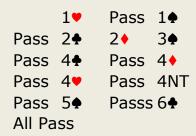
Your seven card spade suit makes this hand game forcing. Your respond $1 \spadesuit$ and partner rebids $2 \spadesuit$. West interjects a $2 \spadesuit$ overcall and it's back to you.

You can rebid your spades or support partner's clubs, but making a simple rebid of an old suit is non-forcing. You don't want partner to pass. I would recommend 3. You have a semi self-sufficient spade suit. You can almost manage a spade contract without any spades from partner.

Over your 3♠, North rebids 4♠. He is expressing very negative feelings about your major suit, and is emphasizing his clubs. This sounds like you may have a club slam in the making.

This is the time to start cue bidding. Rebid 4
ightharpoonup . This tells partner you like his clubs and are interested in slam. He cue bids his hearts and you know enough to launch into Roman Key Card Blackwood. Over your 4NT, North bids 5
ightharpoonup . This shows two of five key cards (including the ightharpoonup K as the 5
ightharpoonup . Since you are only off either a red ace or the ightharpoonup K, you bid 6
ightharpoonup . This is the bidding sequence:

West North East South



East leads the ◆A. Take over for North and plan the play:



East leads ♦A, followed by a club

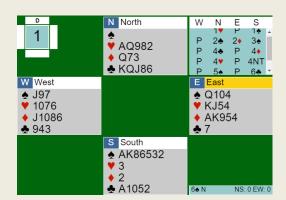


If you count top tricks, you have only 2 spades, 1 heart and 5 clubs. Since you only have 3 clubs left in the dummy after East's switch to trump, you can get only 3 extra tricks from ruffing diamonds and hearts. Your're still 1 trick short. You should be eying those long spades in the dummy.

In order to set up the suit, you need the 6 outstanding spades to break at least 4-2. You also need entries to the dummy to ruff out the opponents' remaining spades and get back there to enjoy the winners after pulling their last two trump. You have sufficient clubs to manage this as long as you don't pull any more trump before your spades are set up.

Win trick 2's club lead in dummy and play the ♠AK. They hold and now ruff a 3rd spade high. Happily, you see both opponents follow. Now the remaining spades are good and you only have to pull the rest of the trump, take your ♥A and ruff a heart to get back to those lovely little spades to complete your small slam.

This is the entire deal:



You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

http://tinyurl.com/y6vaww4x, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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