

BID A GRAND SLAM IF YOU CAN

You are sitting South with this hand:

South
 ♠ K983
 ♥ AKQ3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ AK76

You pick up this 19 HCP hand and before you can open, your partner opens with 1♣. Your hand has gotten even better. You bid your 4-card heart suit and he rebids 2♣. You now can show your 4-card spade suit. This is called a ‘responser’s reverse’. It requires partner to go to the 3-level to take preference to your first suit. But you can afford it because you are so strong.

Partner doesn’t care for your spades and rebids 2NT. Now you show your support for his clubs. They must be long because he rebid them and he doesn’t have a 4-card major. After you jump to 4♣, partner starts control suit bidding, starting with his diamond suit. You have all the information you need to start a Blackwood sequence. You are playing Key Card Blackwood, where the king of trump counts as the fifth key card. His response is 5♠, which means he has 2 key cards and the queen of clubs. You see that his hand is matching perfectly with your hand and you take a deep breath and bid 7♣.

East leads the ♦Q and you take over for North:

Vul: E/W	North ♠ A5 ♥ 95 ♦ A52 ♣ QJ10943	East ♦Q
	South ♠ K983 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ 7 ♣ AK76	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

This is not a difficult hand to play. After East's diamond lead you see no losers in spades, hearts or clubs. You do have two losers in diamonds but you plan to leave two trumps in the dummy to take care of those losers. Luckily, trumps split 2-1 and your plan works like a charm.

If you bid this Grand Slam, you got 500 more points than you would have if you only bid 6♣ making seven.

Here is the entire deal:

D 9	N North ♠ A5 ♥ 95 ♦ A52 ♣ QJ10943	W N E S 1♣ P 1♥ P 2♣ P 2♠ P 2NT P 4♣ P 4♦ P 4NT P 5♠ P 7♠
W West ♠ Q1062 ♥ 1082 ♦ K10843 ♣ 5	E East ♠ J74 ♥ J764 ♦ QJ96 ♣ 82	
	S South ♠ K983 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ 7 ♣ AK76	
		7♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/gv3omb2>, 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.