

CUEBIDDING IN SLAM AUCTIONS

Tanvir Khan (Dehradun) 's question :- Is it mandatory for the partner to cue-bid his control (below game level) or sign-off in agreed suit when he has responded on bare minimum.?

The responders hand-----♠J76 ♥H652 ♦A5 ♣KQ762-

Partner opens 1-S, Opponents are silent all through, you respond 2C, Partner bids 2S (which is forcing upto 2NT), you respond 3S, partner bids 4C, Now whether you close the shop at 4S OR bid 4D to show your control? You are playing SAYC.

Do you show bigger hand by participating in cue-bidding?.

Opener's hand-♠AKQ843 ♥H4 ♦K43 ♣A43.

Sridhar's views :-

It is advisable to clearly define when (a) cue bidding is mandatory and (b) when it is optional showing the attitude to slam . Partnerships have various methods to achieve this ; the most popular among them is "3NT as serious slam try" and "principle of fast arrival ".

3NT as serious slam try: - After a major suit fit has been found in a GF auction, a bid of 3NT says " I am serious about slam ; I want you to cue bid compulsorily" –for eg in the bidding is 1♠-2♣-2♥-3♠-3N- over this 3N cue bidding is mandatory ; now the converse can be used effectively, I e when a player had an option to use the 3N as serious slam try, but chose to not use it, then he is not commanding his partner to cue bid and so his partner can sign off in game with minimum.

Principle of fast arrival :- In a GF auction a player jumps to game after a fit has been found to show a poor hand; if he does not follow this option and chooses to go slow then he is serious about slam and wants partner to cue bid .

Not considering the above gadgets, in the auction described by you, I believe the bid of 3S has already shown a minimum hand ; if so, then the 3♠ bidder can comfortably cue bid 4♦ without any fear of overstating his values , since partner has heard him bid 3♠