

Second Time Around

by [Rich Waugh](#)

Board 18
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠	Q 2	♠	5
♥	7 6 3	♥	A K J 10 9 5
♦	J 10 9 8 6	♦	7 4
♣	J 9 4	♣	10 7 6 3

♠	A K 9 8 6 4	♠	5
♥	Q	♥	A K J 10 9 5
♦	A	♦	7 4
♣	A K Q 8 2	♣	10 7 6 3

♠	J 10 7 3
♥	8 4 2
♦	K Q 5 3 2
♣	5

This deal is a reprise of a deal originally played at Bridge Ace in June, 2008. It is a most interesting deal. Back in 2008, the final contracts, all by East-West, were:

- 2♠ - making 5 for 200
- 4NT - making 7 for 520
- 6♣ - making 7 for 940
- 6♥ - making 7 for 1010

Nobody bid the cold grand slam in clubs, hearts or notrump.

I have to believe that every East opened 2♥. It is a book bid. From there, the bidding obviously diverged.

How did someone end up in 2♠? It's easy to guess that this was the auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♠	All pass	2♥	Pass

West responded 2♠, believing a new suit was forcing, and East passed, thinking it was not. This is a common misconception. East had been told many times that a preempter never bids again. As a rule, this is good advice but it leaves out *one* very important word. It should be: preempter never *voluntarily* bids again. New suits by partner *are* forcing.

What about 4NT? Sounds to me like someone passed what was intended as Blackwood.

6♣ is also easy to imagine:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
6♣	All pass	3♥	Pass

The 2♠ response was forcing and natural. 6♣ said "I have slam in my own hand, please choose between my two suits." Not a bad auction, but it pretty much gives up on a grand slam.

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How about the pair that bid **6♥**? I can only conjecture that East was an unequivocal hand hog.

Here is an auction to reach the grand slam:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
7 ♣	All pass		

After East raises clubs (remember, new suits are forcing; East cannot pass 4♣ any more than he could pass 2♠), West can cue bid his diamond control. If East shows the heart ace, West can bid **7♣**. There are no red suit losers, his partner must be short in spades and he will be able to ruff out the suit.

Will anyone bid a grand slam in 2011? Check today's results to find out!