

# Is your glass half full?

Rakesh Kumar

Partner deals and opens 1D. Your right-hand opponent passes. You hold:

♠AKJT8764  
♥A2  
♦54  
♣T

What possibilities are you considering?

To some extent, the answer to that question depends on whether you are a "glass half empty" or a "glass half full" person.

Those in the former category might think "oh dear there's a misfit, but even though I have just 12 high card points I do I have a good long suit, surely we can make game in spades".

Those in the latter category think of higher things. Especially if they have some concept of the losing trick count: this hand has a mere 5 losers, an average opening has 7 losers, and  $24 - (5 + 7) = 12$  tricks possible. Really all that's needed is to check on aces or keycards. As it turned out, only one was missing:

<b>BD: 18</b>	♠5	<b>Dlr: E</b>			
	♥QJT75	<b>Vul: NS</b>			
	♦QJ				
	♣K9875				
♠AKJT8764			♠Q		
♥A2			♥K94		
♦54			♦AK986		
♣T			♣6432		
			♠932		
			♥863		
			♦T732		
			♣AQJ		
				N	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	T
N	1	1			9
S	1	1			12 12
E	3	6	2		7
W	3	6	2		

So the slam in spades is cold – even though partner doesn't have any spade length, declarer doesn't have to rely on dropping ♠Q because partner does have that card, as well as every necessary card in the red suits.

However, when this board was played on Monday 25 November, only Jan Fennell and Barbara Boag found their way to the slam. That was against us, of course, so they scored a well-earned top and we scored an absolute zero.

But what were all the others souls in the West seat worrying about, I wonder? Try bidding 'em up – it can be fun!

