15b: Quantitative NT Slam Invitation

Statistically a 6NT slam is worth going for with 33+ HCP. 7NT requires 37+ HCP. The probability of making a small slam with exactly 33 HCP is around 50%, and the probability of making a grand slam with exactly 37 HCP is 75%.

1NT - 4NT - ?;   2NT - 4NT - ?;   2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT - 4NT - ? ; all are examples of a quantitative slam enquiry. No suit has been agreed so the contract will end up in No Trumps. Responder is inviting opener to bid a No Trump slam if he has the maximum HCP for his No Trump bid.

The No Trump bidder's partner needs to do the maths before making a quantitative bid. He adds his HCP to partner's <u>maximum</u> point count to calculate the maximum combined point count, and then acts as follows:

- 4NT invites slam.
  - If combined points are less than 33, pass (stop in 4NT)
  - If combined points are between 33 and 36, bid 6NT.
  - If combined points are 37+, bid 7NT.

- Bid 6NT direct if you know the partnership has 33+ HCP, and bid 7NT with 37+HCP.

- 5NT is a grand slam enquiry – bidder knows the partnership has at least 35 HCP so 6NT is almost guaranteed and 7NT is possible if opener is maximum.

  - If combined points are less than 37, bid 6NT
  - If combined points are 37+, bid 7NT.

Maximum HCP range if opener is maximum	Action	Rationale
< 33	Sign off in 3NT	Slam unlikely
33-36	Bid 4NT invitational to 6NT	6NT possible
37	Bid 5NT invitational to 7NT	6NT guaranteed, 7NT possible

(Note: with a <u>minimum</u> combined 37 HCP, responder can bid 7NT directly.)

For example:
- After a weak 1NT bid (12-14), if responder has 19 HCP there is a possible combined 33 HCP so responder bids 4NT invitational to 6NT

- After a 2NT bid (20-22), if responder has 11 HCP the combined maximum is 33 HCP so responder bids 4NT invitational to 6NT

- After a 2♣-2♦-2NT (23-24 HCP), if responder has 13 HCP the combined maximum is 37 HCP so responder bids 5NT invitational to 7NT. Opener signs off in 6NT if not maximum.

- Sometimes responder can go straight to slam. If partner opens a weak 1NT (12-14), and responder has 21 HCP, there is a combined 33-35 HCP. Enough for a small slam but not enough for a grand slam, so responder bids 6NT.