

Bonus Hand 3: NL200 - A Flopped Set

This hand comes to us courtesy of one of TT's pupils, *sk345di*.

Hero is BB with 6♠6♥, BU minraises, SB and Hero call. Hero is 100bb deep with BU, a regular, but SB, a fish, has just 50bb.

The flop is 6♣Q♣K♠. SB donks \$6 into \$12, Hero raises to \$20, BU calls and SB folds.

The turn is J♣. Hero bets \$36 into \$58 and BU calls.

The river 4♦ and both players check.

sk345di: Should I value bet the river, and what's the right sizing? Since it's NL200, a reg should be good enough to fold all worse hands than mine, and would play a flush the same way on the flop and turn. They might bluff raise the river with the A♣ blocker, but I'm still not sure if I should check/call or check/fold on the river, although I realize that it depends on his bet size too.

TT: As played, raising to \$20 on the flop is fine, but I'd prefer \$22-\$24. On the turn, you're not afraid of one of the ugliest cards in the deck and bet, so you probably thought you were ahead and that Villain would call with weaker hands. The river totally blanks, but you don't bet, even though you were happy about your hand on the flop and turn. Following your logic, I'd expect a value bet of about \$72. You should fold to a push, because there's no hand in Villain's range that you beat after the hand plays out in this way.

My approach would be different. Once BU calls my raise after the fish donks, his range should be very straightforward: KQ, JT and many flush draws. I'd heavily discount KK and QQ (my line looks strong, so BU will mostly 3bet the flop to get it in against my KQ, 66, and combo draws) as well as gutshots and backdoor flush draws like T♠9♠, A♠T♠, A♠J♠, because those hands don't have much equity, and the fish is still left to act.

On the turn, my line against a solid reg would be to check. I would also check low flushes if I raised those on the flop, as well as semibluffs that hit a straight now like A♠T♠. I would check pretty much my whole range here, maybe even the nut flush, although that depends a bit on Villain and our history. I don't think A♣Qx calls the flop, but A♣Kx is possible – that's one of the few hands I could get value from on the turn, and which I give a free card to. Other than that, I will learn more about Villain's hand by checking. Flushes will bet to charge my sets, two pairs and straights, and I can still call and bluff shove any club on the river. Only the nut flush will call as this line reps A♣x very well. For example, Villain can believe that I'd play A♣J♥ that way, and if he thinks a little bit about it, I'd have to turn a set, two pair or a straight into a bluff. Nobody does that, so low flushes will fold to an AI push on the river. If I fill up, I would also ship it into him. Given the price he gets, he will mostly call, and I have to be afraid that he checks back, especially on a K or a Q, as then even top two made a full house.

My play on the river depends a lot on Villain's turn bet size and timing. If he bets big on the 4♦ I have to fold, as my set won't be good often enough.

As played, BTN shows K♥Q♦.