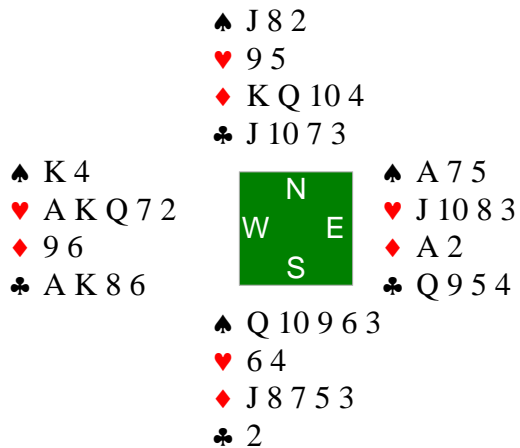


Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
6 ♥	All pass		
6 ♥ by West			

Auction Commentary: Opener's slam meter is pegged when responder shows a limit raise. But West cannot bid Blackwood with 2 losers in an unbid suit. In order to find out if partner has the ♦s stopped, opener must start a cuebidding sequence instead. Over 3♥, since suit agreement is established, the rest of the bids are going to be artificial, showing CONTROLS instead of suits. Beneath the level of game, a control is either an Ace or a King (or a void or a singleton). Why all those?

First round control in an outside suit and in a suit contract is either the Ace or a void. (With a void, you can ruff the first round.)

Second round control in an outside suit and in a suit contract is either the King or a singleton. (With a singleton, you can ruff the second round.)

Opener's first control bid is 4♣ - and if East has a control in ♦s, they're expected to show it now by bidding 4♦. From there, opener can ask 4NT if they needed to find out the number of Aces. (It's possible that an opener in a case like this would be looking for the Ace of trump. We don't control bid the Ace of trump, and 4NT is the only way to find it if it's missing.) Here, opener decides to just jump to slam.

Opening Lead: ♦ K (North hopes to score ♦ Q, since Opener's afraid of the suit!)

Planning the Play: Counting losers, there's a ♦ to lose, and we're hoping the ♣ suit behaves. After 2 rounds of trump, "strip" the ♠ suit from the equation. (This means to play the two top honors and then ruff the 3rd one. Removing a suit and then giving up the lead to them is called an "endplay." Once there are no more ♠s, you play the ♣ A, then throw in one of the opponents with a ♦. They'll win it, and whatever they return will produce a trick for you! If they play a ♠, you can pitch a ♣ from one hand and ruff in the other. If they exit a ♣, they'll play right into your hand. Tricky, this trick, no? :)

Board 7
 South Deals
 None Vul

	♠ Q 9 5 4 2		
	♥ J 10 7 3		
	♦ Q		
	♣ A 6 3		
♠ 10 8 6 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K 7	
♥ —		♥ 9 5 4 2	
♦ J 6 5 4		♦ 10 9 7 2	
♣ K Q 8 7 4		♣ 9 2	
	♠ J		
	♥ A K Q 8 6		
	♦ A K 8 3		
	♣ J 10 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♥
	All pass		
	6 ♥ by South		

Auction Commentary: Like the last lesson hand, the eventual Declarer is afraid of a suit. They need to know if partner can provide a ♣ card. So 4 NT Blackwood is out of the question, because if partner showed you JUST ONE, you'd have to guess whether which black Ace they had! Control bids to the rescue. After 3♥, South bids 3♦ control. The next Ace up the line is what North needs to show. And North doesn't have the ♠ A... but the ♣ A will come in handy. South has the ♠ control (holding a singleton). Slam is attempted.

Opening Lead: ♣ K (Again, defenders lead the suit they know Declarer is afraid of!)

Planning the Play: Counting losers, 1 ♠ loser, and 2 ♣ losers. How to get rid of the ♣s? Look for uneven suits with all the honors -- like this ♦ suit. It's uneven, and one side has more honors. After winning the ♣ A, play ♦ Q. Then a ♥ to the ♥ A, and pitch the 2 losing ♣s in Dummy on the ♦ AK. Next is the ♣ J, which they will cover and you'll ruff high, with the ♥ 10. Now lose a ♠ to East. When East returns a trump, win with the ♥ 8, leaving the ♥ 7 in the dummy. Ruff a ♦, ruff a ♠ back to your hand, and the last 2 top trumps plus the ♣ 10 are good.

You got a bad break in trumps, as East started with 4. But:

- you pulled a round of trump won by ♥ A
- later, East returned a trump, which your ♥ 8 won
- East has 2 trumps left, but your end position was the ♥ KQ, which pulled East's last 2 pieces, and then the ♣ 10 was high.

Tricky stuff!

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

	♠ —											
	♥ Q 7 6 4 2											
	♦ 7 6 4 3 2											
	♣ A K 2											
♠ A Q 10 6 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 8 ♣ Q 7 6 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 9 5 4 3 ♥ K 9 ♦ A Q ♣ J 8 3	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 8 7 2											
	♥ J 8 5 3											
	♦ J 10 9 5											
	♣ 10 9											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass									
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	Pass									
4 ♠	All pass											
4 ♠ by East												

Auction Commentary: After East bids ♠s, opener re-evaluates UP for the 2 doubletons, and makes the invitational 3♠ bid. Responder knows that means 16-18 points, and is excited to try for slam. Afraid of the ♣s, responder starts the cuebid sequence by bidding 4♦. Opener next would bid 4♥ showing a control, but since responder skipped the ♣ suit, opener knows that's the control he's looking for. Without a ♣ control himself, opener settles for 4♠.

Opening Lead: ♦ J (South has a "safe" lead in the top of the series in ♦s.)

Planning the Play: There are 3 ♣s to lose in this hand, so 4♠ should make. If you could get the defense to lead the ♣s, you might only lose 2. But once you win the opening lead, and pull the trumps, you don't have a way to "throw them in" so they can play ♣s for you... except with the ♣ suit. So you're only making 4♠. Good thing you stopped!

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

<p>♠ 7 6 3 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ K Q 9 8 7 ♣ 7 6</p>	<p>♠ 4 ♥ A K J 10 8 5 ♦ — ♣ A J 10 9 4 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 9 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A 6 5 4 2 ♣ K 8 3</p>	
<p>♠ A K J 8 5 ♥ Q 7 4 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ Q 5</p>			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	
	6 ♥ by North		

Auction Commentary: North cannot believe her ears. She promised 5 pieces in ♥s with the 2 ♥ response, South showed at least 3, so there's a minimum of 9 pieces of trump between them. North only has 13 HCP, but that North distribution is really great! Slam might be possible. North's 4♣ call shows a control in the suit, but South can't show a ♦ control. South skips the trump suit and bids 4♠ as a control there. North doesn't CARE about the ♦ control, with that lovely void. So North's rebid of 4NT is asking HOW MANY aces do you have? South shows 1, so North knows that it's the ♠ A (because South denied having a ♦ control). Small slam it is! Knowing there are not 2 quick losers in the hand, North will "figure it out" when that opening hand in dummy comes down. There's enough here someplace to make this slam!

Opening Lead: ♦ A

Planning the Play: Counting losers, North is very thankful to see that ♣ Q in the Dummy. There's a possible ♣ loser, and that's it. If the ♣ K is "on side," we're going to make 7.

Trump the ♦ A and play ♥ AK, leaving the ♥ Q in Dummy in case there may be an overruff situation -- no one can beat the ♥ Q. :) The ♥s divided nicely. Play a ♠ to Dummy and play the ♣ Q, finessing for (and losing to) the ♣ K. Lay the hand down, because you just made 12 tricks!

Takeaway:

Two rules when NOT to use Blackwood:

- (1) Holding a void, and b) holding 2 quick losers in an unbid suit.