

STAMFORD BRIDGE CLUB

5th October 2016

**ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD
("RKCB")**

A Brief Revision

Use of RKCB - Simple

RKCB is a method (tool, gadget) for bidding SLAMS (perhaps staying out of them).

Usually in suit contracts.

To bid slams you need CONTROLS – mainly aces. Otherwise you may have 33 combined HCPs and go off – missing an ace and a king.

Conversely a slam may be bid and made on as few, perhaps, as 22 HCPs – IF YOU HAVE MOST OF THE CONTROLS.

NB: you don't need all the controls to make a slam. You can make a suit slam contract missing one ace or the king of trumps.

The Key Cards are:

- the four aces and the king of the agreed trump suit.
- RKCB also allows you to discover if partner has the queen of trumps.

RKCP is used when there is an agreed (or implied) trump suit.

The asking bid is 4NT

1♥ P 3♥ P

4NT P ?

How many key cards do you have with hearts as the agreed suit?

1♥ P 2♠ P

4NT

How many key cards do you have with spades as the agreed (implied) suit?

The responses are (1430):

5♣ = 1 or 4

5♦ = 0 or 3

5♥ = 2 *without* the trump queen

5♠ = 2 *with* the trump queen

We need control of all side suits to use RKCB. Here's a misuse of the convention:

(Talk Hand 1)

One obvious benefit of the system is that if partner has 1 (5♣) or 0 (5♦), it is easy to pull out at the 5 level - simply bid the agreed suit: e.g. 5♥

To ask for kings after the ace-showing response, bid 5NT.

Responses (*not including the king of trumps*) are:

6♣ = 0; 6♦ = 1; 6♥ = 2 and 6♠ = 3

Use of RKCB – Advanced

If partner responds 5♣ or 5♦ to the 4NT enquiry you can still find out whether he has the queen of trumps by bidding the next non-trump suit up:

1♥	P	3♥	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
5♦	P	?	

5♣ shows 1 or 4 key cards (no info. about the queen of trumps)

5♦: do you have the queen of trumps?

Responses:

Without the trump queen bid the trump suit at the lowest available level.

With the queen of trumps bid 6 of the trump suit unless you hold a side suit king. Then bid that side suit to show the king of that suit too.

(Talk Hand 2)

Next Week

Wednesday, 12th October

Instructive Hands

Part Two