

## **Asking for Aces**

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## Why knowledge of Aces is useful

#### For Suit contracts:

- You have found a fit of at least 8 cards in a suit between you and your partner
- Through point count or Loosing Trick Count, you think you may have strength for a slam
- To win at least 12 tricks, you generally need all four Aces
- **Using a Blackwood bid of 4 NT, you can ask your partner for the number of Aces she has**
- The other two cards that it would be very useful to know if your partner holds are the King and the Queen of trumps
- Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB) enables you to ask about these two cards as well

#### **For No Trumps contracts:**

• Gerber is a way of asking for Aces when the last bid by your partner has been in No Trumps

## Three ways of asking for Aces

- 1. Blackwood, bidding 4 NT, asks how many Aces your partner holds
- 2. Roman Key Card Blackwood (RCKB), bidding 4 NT, asks:
  - a. How many of the top five key cards (the 4 Aces and King of Trumps) your Partner has and,
  - b. if your partner holds exactly two of these, does she also hold the Queen of Trumps?
- You and your Partner must agree whether to use 4 NT for Blackwood or RKCB

**Gerber**, bidding 4**A**, is used directly after a NT bid by your partner to ask how many Aces she holds

A follow up bid of 5 NT (for 1 & 2) or 5 (for Gerber) can be used to ask for more information about Kings, but you would only do this if considering a Grand Slam (winning all 13 tricks)

If you do not like the answer to a 4 NT request, you can usually play at the 5 level

Gerber is more suitable for NT, because you can stop to play at **4** NT - only one level above game

## Blackwood

Blackwood, bidding 4 NT, asks how many Aces your partner holds Asking for Aces shows an agreement of Trumps Partner responses to Blackwood:

Response from Partner	Meaning
5 秦	0 or 4 Aces
5 🔶	1 Ace
5 🕈	2 Aces
5 秦	3 Aces

#### If you follow up with a bid of **5** NT:

Response from Partner	Meaning
6 🙅	0 or 4 Kings
6 🔶	1 King
6 💙	2 Kings
6 🛧	3 Kings

## **Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB)**

RKCB, bidding 4 NT, asks how many of the 4 Aces and the King of Trumps your partner holds

#### **Partner responses to RKCB:**

Response from Partner	Meaning	
5 秦	3 or 0 Key cards (30)	
5 ♦	1 or 4 Key cards (41)	
5 🎔	2 Key cards w.o. Queen of Trumps	
5 🛧	2 Key cards incl. Queen of Trumps	

#### If you follow up with a bid of **5** NT:

Response from Partner	Meaning
6 秦	1 King, excl. King of Trumps
6 ♦	2 Kings, excl. King of Trumps
6 ♥	3 Kings, excl. King of Trumps

### Gerber

Gerber, bidding 4. after your partner has bid NT, asks how many Aces your partner holds

#### **Partner responses to Gerber:**

Response from Partner	Meaning
4 ♦	0 or 4 Aces
4 💙	1 Ace
4 🔶	2 Aces
4 NT	3 Aces

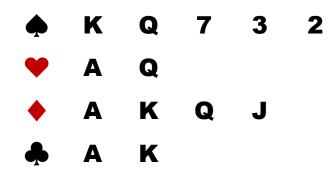
#### If you follow up with a bid of **5**.

Response from Partner	Meaning
5 🔶	0 or 4 Kings
5 💙	1 King
5 秦	2 Kings
5 NT	3 Kings

## **Example 1**

Vulnerability: None Dealer: West

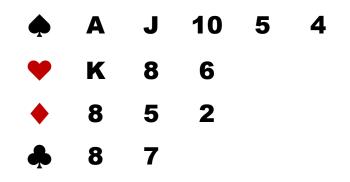
#### West's hand:



#### **Bidding using Blackwood:**

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

#### East's hand:



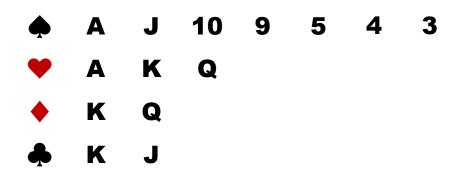
#### **Bidding using RKCB:**

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

## Example 2

#### Vulnerability: None Dealer: West

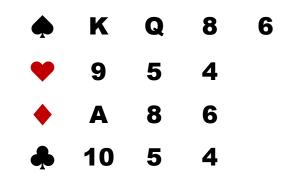
#### West's hand:



#### **Bidding using Blackwood:**

Bidding:				
West	North	East	South	
?				

#### East's hand:



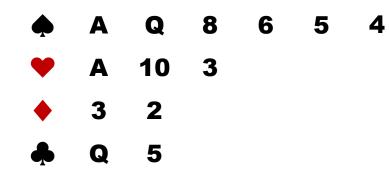
#### **Bidding using RKCB:**

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

## **Example 3**

Vulnerability: East / West Dealer: South

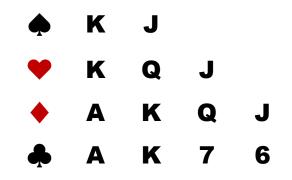
#### South's hand:



#### **Bidding using Blackwood:**

Bidding:			
South	West	North	East
?			

#### North's hand:



#### **Bidding using RKCB:**

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			



#### **Bidding:**

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			



# Thank you