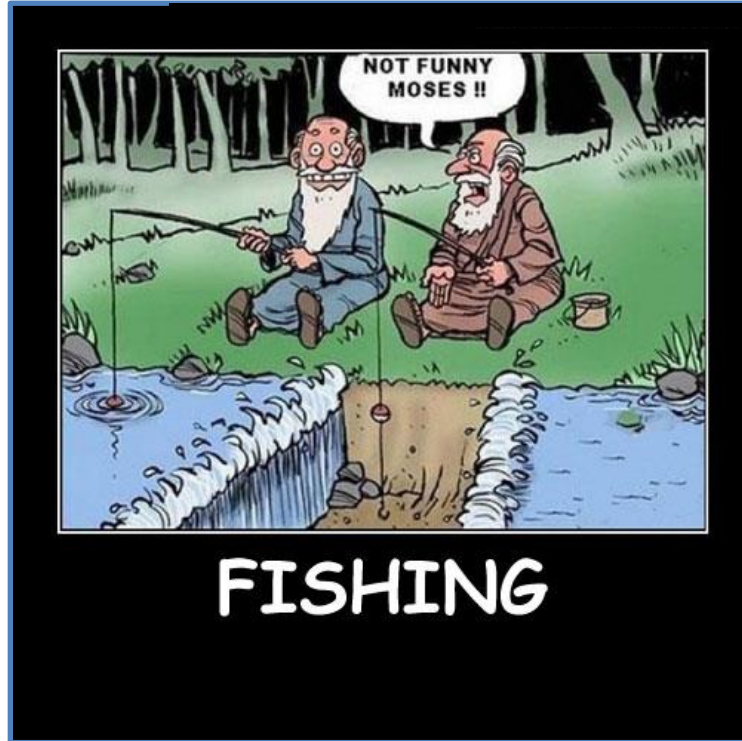


Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB)



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Time for Some Jokes

I went horseback riding today. Big mistake. As soon as my behind hit the saddle that horse took off in a full gallop. I guess I wasn't ready for it, and I started to slide out of the saddle. My foot got caught in the stirrup and the next thing I knew I was hanging under the horse by my foot. The hooves were pounding all around me as I was being slammed to the ground by the up and down motion of the horse. I think I would have died, but for the heroic actions of the Walmart manager who rushed over and unplugged the horse.

I was asked to sing "My Old Kentucky Home" at my class reunion. As I was singing, I noticed an elderly gentleman with his head bowed and weeping. I asked him, "Are you a Kentuckian?"

"No," he replied. "I'm a musician."

Blackwood vs. Quantitative

Looks like he's gonna pull through. Must've been a vicious attack, though. He's lost a lot of candy.



4NT is not Blackwood if there is no inferred or agreed upon suit to play in:

1D – Pass – 1H – Pass

1S – Pass – 4NT (Quantitative - in No Trump)

Quantitative means: Partner, if you're top of your range, bid 6NT. Other options = pass or re-invite with a different suit that you want help in.

(If responder has 4-card ♠ support, he should first use 4SF (2C*), then raise ♠'s, then bid 4NT (Blackwood).

Exception: What if your auction gets jammed?

1H – Pass – 1S – 4D
4NT (Blackwood)

Because opener can't raise ♠'s and ask for aces at the same time, the agreed upon suit in this auction is ♠'s, the last suit bid by their side.

These are Quantitative:

1NT – Pass – 4NT and:

1D – Pass – 1S – Pass

2NT – Pass – 4NT

Why Play Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB)?

If you're playing plain old Blackwood:

You open 1S and partner bids 3S (11 HCP):

Your Hand

♠AJ1073 ♥KQJ ♦AKQ10 ♣3

You could have a slam, but are you off 2 aces? With Blackwood, you can ask partner for his number of aces:

Responses to Blackwood: 5C = 0 or 4 aces 5D = 1 ace 5H = 2 aces 5S = 3 aces

Then, if partner rebids 5NT, you'd use the same formula to show number of kings.

But what about the K♠ or the Q♠? They are potential losers too!

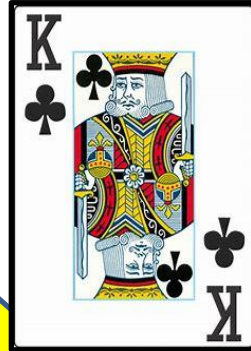
I know! Let's devise a system to ask about losers in the trump suit as well!



What are Key Cards?

There are 5 Key Cards in a suit contract: the 4 aces and the king of trumps, in this case, the K♥.

When you ask for Key Cards, your partner could have any number of them, from 0 to 5.



0 1 2 3 4 5

The ranges are as wide as possible on purpose!

0 or 3

1 or 4

2 or 5

BTW, the king of hearts is sometimes called the "suicide king" because he appears to be sticking his sword into his head. This is a result of centuries of bad copying by English card makers where the king's axe head has disappeared.

* FYI, some people play 1 or 4, 3 or 0, which is called 1430 Blackwood.

Roman Key Card Blackwood

In Roman Key Card Blackwood (*03,14) there are 5 aces (or key cards). The king of trumps counts as an extra ace.

Responses to a RKCB 4NT bid by partner:

5C = 0 or 3 key cards, 5D = 1 or 4.

5H = 2 (or 5) key cards without the queen of trumps

5S = 2 (or 5) key cards with the queen of trumps

1S – Pass – 3S – Pass

4NT – Pass – ???

Your Hand:

♠AQ73 ♥5432 ♦A92 ♣83

5S



* RKCB is not alertable but needs to be on your convention card.

0 or 3 Key Cards

After your 4NT, if partner responds 5C or 5D, you can ask for the queen of trumps by bidding the lowest non-trump suit:

1S – Pass – 3S – Pass

4NT – Pass – 5C – Pass

5D – Pass – ???

Do you have the queen of trumps?

With the Q♠, bid the lowest suit you have a king in or bid 5NT.

5S = No Q♠. Running back to your agreed suit denies the queen of trumps.

If partner follows with 5NT, he's asking you to bid your specific kings up the line (not counting the king of trumps).

RKCB



RKCB for ♥'s, because it's the agreed upon suit.

*Jacoby 3NT = 3 ♥'s, flat hand, spread out honors, 12-15 HCP's.

Do you have the Q♥?

1)

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1H | Pass | 3NT* | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5D | Pass |
| 5S | Pass | 6D | Pass |
| 6H | | | |

1 or 4 of the 5 key cards.

Yes, Q♥ and K♦.

South ♠AJ2 ♥Q53 ♦KJ3 ♣QJ65

Showing 2 key cards (counting the king of trumps) with the queen of trumps.

3)

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1C | Pass | 1H | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2D* | Pass |
| 3H | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5S | | | |

RKCB for ♥'s.

North ♠A94 ♥KQ3 ♦92 ♣KQ952

After NMF (not game-forcing), opener jumps to show 3-card heart support and extras.

2)

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1C | Pass | 1H | Pass |
| 1S | Pass | 2D* | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3S | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5S | |

RKCB for ♠'s.

*4th SF.

South ♠AKQ2 ♥Q653 ♦3 ♣QJ52

4)

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1H | Pass | 3H | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5C | Pass |
| 5D | Pass | 5H | |

0 or 3 KC's.

RKCB for ♥'s.

South ♠A2 ♥AK93 ♦8753 ♣Q105

Do you have the Q♥?

No Q♥.

Showing 2 key cards (counting the king of trumps) with the queen of trumps.

Time for More Jokes

“I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach, and now I’m the proud owner of aisle seven.”

A therapist has a theory that couples who make love once a day are the happiest. So, he tests it at a seminar by asking those assembled, “How many people here make love once a day?” Half the people raise their hands, each of them grinning widely. “Once a week?” A third of the audience members raise their hands, their grins a bit less vibrant. “Once a month?” A few hands tepidly go up. Then he asks, “OK, how about once a year?”

One man in the back jumps up and down, jubilantly waving his hands. The therapist is shocked—this disproves his theory. “If you make love only once a year,” he asks, “why are you so happy?”

The man yells, “Today’s the day!”

Hand #1

| Convention | Meaning |
|------------------|--|
| Jacoby 2NT | If you jump to 2NT*, it asks partner to show a singleton. If he's flat: 3 of his major = 18+ HCP 3NT = 15-17 HCP 4 of his major = 12-14 HCP |
| 2/1 Game Forcing | If you bid a new suit at the 2 level, it's forcing to game (HIGH ROAD). A 1NT bid by you is forcing one round (LOW ROAD) |
| Jacoby 3NT | If you jump to 3NT*, it shows 3-card support, a flat hand with soft, spread-out HCPs. |

* Short in ♣'s. * Jacoby 2NT.

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1H | Pass | 2NT* | Pass |
| 3C* | Pass | 3H | Pass |
| 4D | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5S | Pass | 5NT | Pass |
| 6D | Pass | 7H | |

Extras

Extras.

RKCB for ♥'s.

Major forcing raises

North
 ♠ 962
 ♥ KQJ83
 ♦ AKJ3
 ♣ 8

West
 ♠ 875
 ♥ 75
 ♦ 972
 ♣ KJ743

East
 ♠ QJ104
 ♥ 96
 ♦ 10654
 ♣ Q109

South
 ♠ AK3
 ♥ A1042
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ A652

2 aces with the Q♥.

K♦

Cue Bid or redouble if the opponents have entered the auction (but invitational+ only).

Best Lead:
Q♠

N/S makes 7H.
E/W makes nothing.

1

2

3

4

Hand #2

| <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1C | Pass | 1S | Pass |
| 2H | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5NT | Pass | 6NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Quantitative (there's no agreed suit).

This is a Reverse (18-20 HCPs).

Re-invite to slam.

**Best Lead:
7♠**

North
 ♠ K4
 ♥ AQ93
 ♦ 3
 ♣ AKQ943

West
 ♠ 762
 ♥ 8752
 ♦ K972
 ♣ 87

East
 ♠ AJ103
 ♥ 106
 ♦ 10854
 ♣ 1065

South
 ♠ Q985
 ♥ KJ4
 ♦ AQJ6
 ♣ J2

**N/S makes 6NT (by South only).
E/W makes nothing.**

GAME TIME

