# Using Control Bids For Slam Exploration



# Blackwood Does Not Always Work

### Hand a

- ♠ AKJ9653
- AKQ
- Q J10

### Hand b









- With either of these powerhouse hands,
   Blackwood could result in a disaster.
- To handle hands like this, we need to use a control bid, sometimes called a "cue bid."

### What Is A Control Bid?

- After a major suit trump agreement, a new suit bid at the three level above the agreed trump or at the four level shows a control.
- A control bid gives three bits of information to partner.
  - I have a first round control of the suit I bid.
  - I am interested in exploring for slam.
  - Requests that partner show her most convenient first round control.

### Not a First Round Control Bid

You Partner

1 
2 

3

 After a two level major suit agreement, this type of bid is usually a game try.

### Not a First Round Control Bid

- After a two level minor suit agreement, this type of bid is showing a stopper in the suit, in an attempt to get to a no trump game.
- New-suit bids after a minor suit agreement are first assumed to be seeking a no trump game.
- It is only after the bid is past 3 no trump, that a new-suit bid is understood to show slam interest.

# Control Bids After Minor Suit Agreement

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North A Q J 10 6

**♥** KQ3

♦ AQ98

**3** 

North

1

4 🔷

4 nt

South

2 🔷

### First or Second Round Control

- Some like to play control bids at the 3 or 4 level as either first or second round control.
- Many advanced players do this.
- However, doing this can get confusing.
- I encourage you to make the first control bids to show first round control, until you become comfortable with using control bids.

### Consider This Hand

3

North

- ♠ A Q 9
- A Q 10 7 4
- ♦ KQ6
- **4** J 2

South

**4** J 6

KJ9 3

A J 8 4

♣ K93

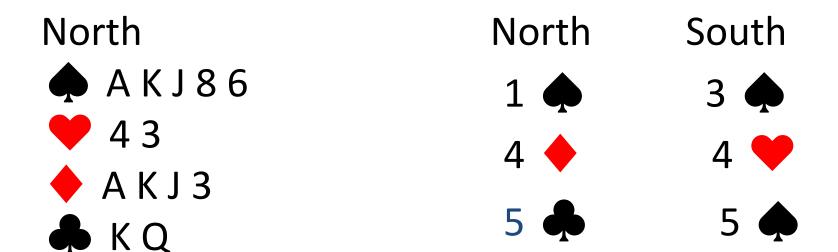
### Rules for Control Bids

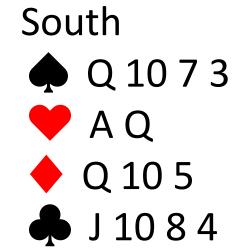
- Control bids cannot begin until the partnership has agreed on a trump suit.
- The first control bid in a suit shows first-round control of that suit.
- Controls are shown up the line starting with the most convenient.
  - By inference, if a person skips a suit, that person does not have first-round control of that suit.
- Never make a control bid unless you have a reasonable interest in slam.

### Rules for Control Bids

- You can show second-round control by bidding a suit in which you or your partner have already shown first-round control.
- You can also show second round control by bidding a suit which you previously skipped when showing first round controls.

# Example Hands and Bidding (1)





# Example Hands and Bidding (2)

### North

- ♠ AK865
- **9** 3
- A K 10 8
- **6** 4 3

### North

- 1
- 3
- 4 🔷
- 6

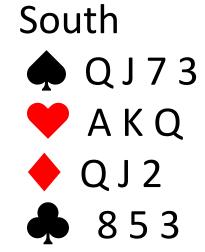
### South

- 2nt
- 4
- 4 🧡

- QJ73
- **A** 9 8
- **♦** QJ2
- A 8 2

# Example Hands and Bidding (3)





# Example Hands and Bidding (4)

### North

- ♠ A K J 6 5
- **Q** 5 3
- ◆ QJ8
- **6** 4

### North

- 1
- 3 💙
- 4 💙
- 5

### South

- 2
- 4
- 5

- **Q** 3
- A K J 9 6 2
- **4** 3
- ♣ A K 3

# Example Hands and Bidding (5)

### North

- ♠ AKJ654
- A 7 5 3
- **8**
- **6** 4

### North

- 1
- 3 💛
- 4 💙
- 6

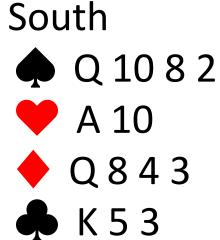
### South

- 2
- 4
- 5

- **Q** 3
- KQJ962
- ◆ Q J
- ♣ A K 5

# Example Hands and Bidding (6)

# North A K J 9 5 4 K 8 2 A K 9 A K 9 6 Countle



# Example Hands and Bidding (7)

### North

- A K
- **V** KJ 10 8 5 2
- A K 9
- **6** 4

### North

- 1 💙
- 3 🧡
- 4 🔷
- 4 nt
- 6 💙

### South

2nt

4

4 💙

5

- **Q** J 8
- **A** 9 6 3
- Q843
- **A** A 5

# Example Hands and Bidding (8)

## North

- **♠** J 6
- A K 8 7 2
- **9**
- **A** K 6 5 4

### North

1 💙

3

4 💙

6

### South

2

3

4 🌲

### South

♠ A K 8 3

**9** 3

🔷 Q84

♣ QJ932

# Example Hands and Bidding (9)

# North

- ♠ AQJ7
- A K Q 2
- A J 7
- **Q** Q 2

### North

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 7nt

### South

- 2
- 4
- 5

- ♠ K 10 9 8 3
- 73
- **108**
- ♣ A K J 3

# Example Hands and Bidding (10)

# 

AKQ



