

Blackwood and Beyond

1. Why do we ask for aces / key cards? To find good slams, but more importantly: **AVOID BAD SLAMS**

2. 4 Types, usually initiated by the strong hand:
 - a) Gerber: **IMMEDIATELY** after a natural no trump bid.
 - b) Blackwood (4NT asks aces, 5 NT asks kings) C:0/4 D:1 H:2 S:3
 - c) Roman Key Card Blackwood: Key cards are the four aces and the king of trumps **OR THE LAST SUIT BID**. 03-14, 14-30, combo for clubs.
 - d) Exclusion KCB (jump to 5 level, answer for cards **OUTSIDE** of the suit pd jumped to)

*** new suit at the 5 level asks responder to bid 5NT to abort the auction***

3. Caveats: Don't ask a, b, or c if YOU have a void. BEFORE blackwood, make sure you and your partner have first or second round control of ALL FOUR SUITS (usually via cuebidding). See hand 13 from Saturday pm session. You should investigate slam if it appears you have 33 pts combined for a small slam and 36-37 pts for a grand slam. Distributional hands can make slam with fewer HCP.

4. Kings: choose total kings or specific kings. If playing specific kings, a new suit by asker at the six level asks for that king.

5. When answering blackwood holding a **USEFUL** void, respond FIVE NT with an even number of key cards, jump to SIX of the void with an odd number of key cards.