

Improvers' Lesson 2: Blackwood Convention

Board 1 ♠ 8 7 6
North Deals ♥ J 10 7 5 4
None Vul ♦ 10 8 4
♣ 10 2

♠ A Q 5 4 ♥ A 9 8 6 ♦ K 2 ♣ K 4 3

♠ K J 3 ♥ K 3 ♦ A Q J 7 5 3 ♣ Q 5

♠ 10 9 2 ♥ Q 2 ♦ 9 6 ♣ A J 9 8 7 6

West North East South
Pass Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass
6 NT All pass

East's 3 ♦ shows 16-17 HCP and 6+ diamonds.

West knows they have 32-33 HCP between them and uses Blackwood to check they are not missing two aces.

Lead: ♥ J

Declarer wins with ♥ A, and has 12 tricks.

Board 5 ♠ K J 10 5 3 2
North Deals ♥ K 8
N-S Vul ♦ K Q
♣ K J 8

♠ 8 7 6 ♥ Q 9 5 ♦ J 10 7 6 5 4 ♣ 5

♠ 4 ♥ J 10 6 4 3 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ 10 9 3 2

♠ A Q 9 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ A Q 7 6 4

West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣
3 ♠ Pass 4 NT
5 ♣ Pass 5 NT
6 ♣ Pass 7 NT

North's rebid of 3 ♠ shows 16-17 with 6+ spades. Although South has all 4 aces they must still use Blackwood asking for aces before they can use 5 NT to ask for kings.

Because South has all the aces, North must have all the kings with their 6 ♣ response, South can count 13 tricks so can bid 7 NT

Lead ♥ J

Board 2 ♠ 4
East Deals ♥ A Q 10 8 3
N-S Vul ♦ 6 4
♣ A K Q 9 3

♠ J 10 8 7 3 2 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 3 ♣ J 10 5 4

♠ A 9 5 ♥ 9 7 6 4 ♦ Q J 10 9 ♣ 7 6

♠ K Q 6 ♥ K J 2 ♦ A K 7 5 2 ♣ 8 2

West North East South
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♦
Pass 3 ♣ Pass 1 NT
Pass 4 NT Pass 3 ♥
Pass 6 ♥ All pass 5 ♦

South's rebid of 1 NT shows 15-17. North bids their second suit then South shows a 3-card heart support in hearts.

North uses Blackwood to check they are not missing 2 aces.

Lead: ♦ Q

Win ♦ A and play ♣ A and ♣ K. Now ruff a club with the ♥ J then draws trumps starting with the ♥ K.

Board 6 ♠ 9 6
East Deals ♥ 9 7 5
E-W Vul ♦ 8 6 4
♣ A 9 8 7 5

♠ K J 8 5 3 ♥ Q J 6 3 ♦ Q 2 ♣ Q J

♠ A Q 7 4 ♥ K 2 ♦ A K J 5 ♣ K 4 2

♠ 10 2 ♥ A 10 8 4 ♦ 10 9 7 3 ♣ 10 6 3

West North East South
3 ♣ Pass 2 NT
4 NT Pass 3 ♠
5 ♠ All pass 5 ♥

West uses Stayman to try and find a major fit, then asks for aces and stops in 5 ♠ as there are two missing.

Lead: ♦ 10

On a diamond lead, declarer is lucky and after drawing trumps, can discard clubs on the diamonds.

Board 3 ♠ A J 9 4
South Deals ♥ 5 4 2
E-W Vul ♦ 8 2
♣ J 10 7 4

♠ Q 5 3 2 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♦ A 3 ♣ A 3 2

♠ K 6 ♥ A 3 ♦ K Q J 9 7 5 ♣ K Q 9

♠ 10 8 7 ♥ Q J 10 6 ♦ 10 6 4 ♣ 8 6 5

West North East South
1 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♦ All pass

When West opens 1 NT, East knows they have a diamond fit and at least 30 HCP. The good long diamond suit encourages East to investigate slam.

Lead: ♥ Q

Declarer wins, draws trumps and concedes a trick to the ♠ A.

Board 7 ♠ Q 4 3 2
South Deals ♥ J 7 5 2
Both Vul ♦ Q 2
♣ A K J

♠ 8 ♥ Q 8 4 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ 10 8 7 5 3 2

♠ 10 5 ♥ A 10 9 6 ♦ 10 8 6 3 ♣ Q 9 4

♠ A K J 9 7 6 ♥ K 3 ♦ A K 5 4 ♣ 6

West North East South
Pass 4 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 5 ♦ Pass 4 NT
All pass 6 ♠

North bids 4 ♠ showing 13+ HCP and 4 spades.

South uses Blackwood to ask for aces knowing they have 31+ HCP between the two hands.

With only one ace missing, they bid to slam in spades.

Win the club lead, draw trumps and discard a heart on the ♣ K

Board 4 ♠ A 8
West Deals ♥ K Q J 4
Both Vul ♦ Q 2
♣ A Q 10 7 3

♠ 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♣ 8

♠ Q J 10 9 ♥ 3 ♦ J 7 6 4 ♣ 9 5 4 2

♠ K 6 ♥ A 10 9 6 5 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ K J 6

West North East South
Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥
Pass 4 ♥ Pass 4 NT
Pass 5 ♥ Pass 6 ♥
All pass

North's rebid of 4 ♥ shows 18-19 with 4+ heart support.

South uses Blackwood. and bids the slam.

Lead: ♦ A

This is a straightforward hand to play. Draw trumps immediately.

Board 8 ♠ 10
West Deals ♥ Q 9 5 2
None Vul ♦ J 9 8 4
♣ 7 6 5 4

♠ A K Q J 5 3 ♥ A ♦ A 10 6 3 ♣ J 2

♠ 7 2 ♥ 10 8 6 4 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ A K 9 8

♠ 9 8 6 4 ♥ K J 7 3 ♦ Q 7 ♣ Q 10 3

West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 N Pass 5 ♦ Pass
6 ♠ All pass

West's jump shift to 3 ♦ shows 18+ HCP and East's 3 ♥ a second suit. 3 ♠ by West now shows a 6-card suit. East then shows a spade fit and West asks for aces.

With all four aces and a singleton heart, West bids to slam.

Lead: ♣ 7