

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 ♠ K J 3
 ♥ A 9 8 6 ♥ K 3
 ♦ K 2 ♦ A Q J 7 5 3
 ♣ K 4 3 ♣ Q 5

♠ 10 9 2
 ♥ Q 2
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ A J 9 8 7 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	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 ♠ 4
 ♥ Q 9 5 ♥ J 10 6 4 3
 ♦ J 10 7 6 5 4 ♦ 8 3 2
 ♣ 5 ♣ 10 9 3 2

♠ A Q 9
 ♥ A 7 2
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ A Q 7 6 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 NT
Pass	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 ♠ A 9 5
 ♥ 5 ♥ 9 7 6 4
 ♦ 8 3 ♦ Q J 10 9
 ♣ J 10 5 4 ♣ 7 6

♠ K Q 6
 ♥ K J 2
 ♦ A K 7 5 2
 ♣ 8 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	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 ♠ A Q 7 4
 ♥ Q J 6 3 ♥ K 2
 ♦ Q 2 ♦ A K J 5
 ♣ Q J ♣ K 4 2

♠ 10 2
 ♥ A 10 8 4
 ♦ 10 9 7 3
 ♣ 10 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	3 ♣	Pass	2 NT
4 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	All pass	5 ♥	Pass

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 6
 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A 3 ♦ K Q J 9 7 5
 ♣ A 3 2 ♣ K Q 9

♠ 10 8 7
 ♥ Q J 10 6
 ♦ 10 6 4
 ♣ 8 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	4 NT	Pass
1 NT	Pass	6 ♦	All pass
5 ♥			

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 ♠ 10 5
 ♥ Q 8 4 ♥ A 10 9 6
 ♦ J 9 7 ♦ 10 8 6 3
 ♣ 10 8 7 5 3 2 ♣ Q 9 4

♠ A K J 9 7 6
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ A K 5 4
 ♣ 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	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 ♠ Q J 10 9
 ♥ 8 7 2 ♥ 3
 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♦ J 7 6 4
 ♣ 8 ♣ 9 5 4 2

♠ K 6
 ♥ A 10 9 6 5
 ♦ K 10 8
 ♣ K J 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	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 ♠ 7 2
 ♥ A ♥ 10 8 6 4
 ♦ A 10 6 3 ♦ K 5 2
 ♣ J 2 ♣ A K 9 8

♠ 9 8 6 4
 ♥ K J 7 3
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ Q 10 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
4 N	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