

# Blackwood Convention

## Lesson Content

When should you look for a slam?

- At least 32 points with balanced hands
- At least 30 points with a suit fit

Blackwood Convention has the following bids: - 4NT and responses  
- 5NT and responses

## Main Points to Emphasise

- HCP needed to bid a slam and the relevance of having a fit.
- 4NT is used to check that you are not missing 2 Aces. The most important reason for using this convention is to ask for Aces. If 2 Aces are missing sign off in your suit at the 5-level.
- Point out that 4NT & 5NT are artificial bids.
- Responses to 4NT & 5NT are logical steps bidding up the line - EXCEPT the first step is 0 or 4.
- Only ask for Kings if you are looking for a **grand** slam.
- Even if you have all the Aces, you must still bid 4NT first, before asking for Kings with 5NT.

## Lesson Progression

- Discuss when you should be looking for a slam and why you use Blackwood.
- Move onto the responses to 4NT.
- Review the example hands provided.

**Play all hands with a break for supper**

At some stage review the bidding for the first two boards to check that everybody is bidding correctly.