

# Yvonne's Convention Corner

## Exclusion Blackwood (Voidwood)

When a strong hand wishes to find out about controls (Aces & K of Trumps, if using Key-card Blackwood) but his holding includes a void, information about the number of aces is irrelevant because he may hold an Ace in the void suit. This is not usually a good slam to be in as you can ruff this suit and so do not need the Ace.

The solution to this problem is EXCLUSION BLACKWOOD. This is used only after the Trump suit has been agreed.

It is a jump to a level higher than "Game" in the void suit.


As he bids his void he asks partner to show keycards **excluding** the void suit.

The suit of the jump bid is then **excluded** by partner from any response bids. The responses to the Keycard Asking bid are as follows:


- 1st Step: Shows 1 or 4 Keycards.
- 2nd Step: Shows 0 or 3 Keycards.
- 3rd Step: Shows 2 Keycards without Trump Queen.
- 4th Step: Shows 2 Keycards with Trump Queen.

When to use EXCLUSION BLACKWOOD:

1. Immediately following a suit raise, eg:


1C          1S  
3S                 ?? a jump to 5C, 5D or 5H asks partner to show controls **excluding** the Ace in that suit, so if one of your two Aces is in the suit bid, you would answer only 1.

2. When a 1NT opener super-accepts a transfer bid

eg:  
1NT          2H  
3S                 ?? a jump here shows a void in the suit bid and asks partner for

controls **excluding** that suit.

3. When a 2C opener shows a self-sufficient suit and the partner needs to know about Keycards.

Eg:  
2C          2D  
3H                 ?? 4S, 5C or 5D shows a void in that suit and asks partner for controls

**excluding** the Ace in that suit. Note that the 3H bid is setting the suit even opposite a void in hearts - usually shows a solid seven card suit.

Here are a couple of examples:

A

West	East
♠ KQ87 ♥ 5 ♦ Q965 ♣ AJ86	♠ AJ10652 ♥ AKQ74 ♦ ♣ K4

West	East	Meaning
1♣	1♠	Natural
2♠	5♦	Exclusion Keycard Blackwood showing a void in Diamonds and asking for Keycards <i>outside Diamonds</i> .
5NT		3rd Step showing two Keycards. The Diamond suit is not counted, so the two Keycards, by inference, must be ♠K and ♣A.
	6♦	If one partner has to make a bid higher than the agreed trump suit at the five level, repeating the void suit asks for the trump Queen.
6♥		Shows the Queen of Spades
	7♠	As there are no losers in trumps, no losers in Hearts, no losers in Diamonds owing to the void, and partner has the Ace of Clubs, East bids the grand slam in Spades.

B

West	East
♠ A43 ♥ AKQ932 ♦ 53 ♣ 87	♠ -- ♥ JT8 ♦ AKJ842 ♣ AKQ3

West	East	Opp	Meaning
1♥	2♦	2♠	2♦ game force
3♥	4♠		Exclusion Keycard Blackwood- above the game bid of 4♥. Shows void in Spades and asks for Keycards.
5♥			2 Keycards & Queen of Trumps
	7♥		

