Deal 1
South Deals
None Vul

North hand: ♠ J 7 4 2 ♡ K Q 5 4 ◇ 8 2 ♣ 7 5 3

West hand: ♠ 6 5 ♡ J 9 6 ◇ J 7 6 4 ♣ A 10 9 6

East hand: ♠ 10 ♡ A 10 8 7 3 ◇ Q 10 9 5 3 ♣ 4 2

South hand: ♠ A K Q 9 8 3 ♡ 2 ◇ A K ♣ K Q J 8

Compass: N W E S

6
6   6
22

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ◇	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5 ♠ by South

NORTH's 3♠ supporting bid is enough to convince SOUTH to make a slam try.

SOUTH bids Blackwood 4 NT. If NORTH shows one Ace SOUTH plans to bid 6♠, but

when NORTH bids 5♣ SOUTH settles for 5♠

Deal 2
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 4
♡ K J 9
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ K Q

♠ K Q 9 7 2
♡ 7 5 2
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 9 5

N
W E
S

♠ 10 8 5
♡ 4 3
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A 8 6 3 2

23
5 4
8

♠ J 3
♡ A Q 10 8 6
♦ 10 3
♣ J 10 7 4

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♡
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 ♡ by South

SOUTH makes a positive 3

♥

response to NORTH's 2♣ opener.

This promises at least 8 points and a 5-card suit with two or more honors.

NORTH only needs to know one thing - how many Aces in the SOUTH hand.

A Blackwood 4 NT tells her the answer is one, so she bids 6

♥

.

Deal 3
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q
♡ K 6
◇ A 4
♣ K Q J 9 7 3 2

♠ J 10 6 4 2
♡ A 10 7 3
◇ 10 7 3
♣ 8

N
W E
S

♠ 8 5 3
♡ 9 8 5
◇ J 9 5 2
♣ 10 6 4

18
5   1
16

♠ A 9 7
♡ Q J 4 2
◇ K Q 8 6
♣ A 5

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 NT by South

When SOUTH opens 1 NT, point-count alone tells NORTH that 6 NT can surely be made.

SOUTH is bound to hold at least two Aces. But NORTH doesn't want to miss a Grand slam.

NORTH bids 4♣, (Gerber), and SOUTH admits to just two Aces.

So NORTH settles for the small slam.

Deal 4
North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 5 2
♡ A J 7 4 3
♢ A Q
♣ 9 8

♠ 8 7
♡ 10 8
♢ J 8 4 2
♣ J 7 6 5 4

N
W E
S

♠ 10
♡ Q 9 6 2
♢ 10 9 6 5
♣ Q 10 3 2

♠ A K Q 6 4 3
♡ K 5
♢ K 7 3
♣ A K

12
2   4
  22

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

7 NT by South

SOUTH has a powerhouse and knows she will reach a slam somewhere. When NORTH

supports the ♠s, it seems she has found her spot.

Blackwood tells her that NORTH has two Aces.

She can see there are 12 tricks available and decides to take a chance that

NORTH will have a thirteenth trick somewhere among his opening hand points.

She bids 7 NT.

Deal 5
North Deals
None Vul

	♠ A K 2	
	♡ K Q 6 5	
	◇ K Q J	
	♣ K J 6	

♠ Q 8 5	N	♠ 10 9 6 4
♡ 7 4 2	W E	♡ 3
◇ A 9 7 4	S	◇ 10 6 5
♣ 10 3 2		♣ A 9 7 5 4

	♠ J 7 3	
	♡ A J 10 9 8	
	◇ 8 3 2	
	♣ Q 8	

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♡
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ◇
Pass	5 ♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

5 ♡ by South

NORTH is tempted to go right to 6 ♥ when she hears SOUTH's positive response. BUT, she should use Blackwood first.

It's good thing she did because SOUTH admits to only one Ace - they are missing two Aces.

Deal 6
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 4
♡ A 8
♢ K Q J 10 7 3
♣ K 5

♠ J 10 8 5
♡ Q J 9 4 2
♢ 6 2
♣ J 4

```
        N
    W       E
        S
```

♠ 9 7 2
♡ 6 5 3
♢ 8 5
♣ A 10 6 3 2

18
5   4
13

♠ A 6 3
♡ K 10 7
♢ A 9 4
♣ Q 9 8 7

West	North	East	South
	1 ♢	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 NT by South

NORTH not only has 20 points, he also has a lot of winners.

So when SOUTH jumps to 2 NT, showing 13-15 points, NORTH uses Gerber.

SOUTH shows two Aces so NORTH decides 6 NT will be just right.

Deal 7

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 8 5
♡ J 6 3
♢ 8 7
♣ A Q J 4

♠ 10 2
♡ Q 9 8 5 2
♢ 10 9 3
♣ 10 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ 7 4
♡ K 10 7
♢ K 5 4 2
♣ 9 8 7 6

13
2 6
19

♠ A J 9 6 3
♡ A 4
♢ A Q J 6
♣ K 5

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

6 ♠ by South

When NORTH gives immediate ♠ support, SOUTH's thoughts naturally

turn to slam. This is a good hand to use Blackwood on, so SOUTH bids 4 NT.

NORTH's 5

♦

answer shows one Ace, which SOUTH cleverly deduces

must be the ♣A.

SOUTH bids 6♠ since NORTH has not bid strongly enough to think about 7.

Deal 8
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q J
♡ A K 10
♦ K Q 2
♣ K Q 7 3

♠ 10 9 8 3 2
♡ 6
♦ A 6 5
♣ J 9 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ 7 5
♡ 5 3 2
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A 10 8 6 5

♠ A 6 4
♡ Q J 9 8 7 4
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ —

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♡
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	6 ♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 ♡ by South

NORTH expects to bid 2 NT at his second turn, but SOUTH gives a positive 2

♥

response and his thinking changes! First he supports

♥

s, setting the

trump suit.

SOUTH then bids 3♠, showing first round control. NORTH tries 4 NT (Blackwood) and

SOUTH replies 6♣. This shows a ♣ void and one Ace, obviously the ♠A.

NORTH bids 6

♥

, knowing they must lose the

♦

A.

Deal 9
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8 4 2
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ A 9 8 6 3
♣ —

♠ J 10 7 6   N   ♠ Q 9 3
♥ 4   W   E   ♥ 9 2
♦ J 4 2   S   ♦ Q 10 5
♣ A 8 5 4 2   ♣ K Q 10 7 3

♠ K 5
11
6 9   ♥ A K 10 7 5 3
14   ♦ K 7
               ♣ J 9 6

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 NT	Pass	7 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

7 ♥ by South

NORTH's jump to 4♣ is a Splinter bid, at least 4-card

♥

support,

at least opening hand, and a ♣ Singleton or Void.

SOUTH bids 4 NT, Blackwood.

NORTH's 5 NT reply shows two Aces and a Void somewhere, obviously ♣s.

SOUTH counts thirteen tricks and bids 7

♥

.

Deal 10
South Deals
None Vul

♠ —
♡ A 9 7 5
◇ K 9 8 6 4
♣ J 9 3 2

♠ A 10 8 6
♡ 6 4
◇ J 10 3 2
♣ 8 7 5

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 9 7 4 2
♡ 8 2
◇ Q 7 5
♣ A 4

8
5   9
18

♠ K 5 3
♡ K Q J 10 3
◇ A
♣ K Q 10 6

West	North	East	South
			1 ♡
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 ♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 ♡ by South

SOUTH figures that if NORTH holds two Aces he will bid the slam.

NORTH only has one Ace, but she has something else just as good - a void in a suit which

is higher-ranking than

♥

s.

SOUTH manages to figure out that NORTH has a ♠ void and bids the slam anyway.

Deal 11
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 5 3
♡ J 8 7
◇ A 8 6 5
♣ 7 4

♠ J 10
♡ 10 5 4 3
◇ K Q J 10 4
♣ 10 5

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

♠ Q 2
♡ 9 6 2
◇ 9 3 2
♣ A Q 9 8 2

8
7   8
17

♠ A 9 8 6 4
♡ A K Q
◇ 7
♣ K J 6 3

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4♠ by South

SOUTH may have a good hand but NORTH merely gave a simple raise.

Even if NORTH has a maximum there won't be a slam.

Deal 12
South Deals
None Vul

```
                 ♠ Q 7 5 3
                 ♡ 10 9 4 2
                 ◇ A 8
                 ♣ K J 4
♠ A J 10 6 4              ♠ K 9 8 2
♡ 7 5              N      ♡ A
◇ Q 7 4        W     E    ◇ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ 10 9 8          S      ♣ 7 3 2
                 ♠ —
    10           ♡ K Q J 8 6 3
  7   7          ◇ K J 2
    16           ♣ A Q 6 5
```

West	North	East	South
			1 ♡
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ◇	Pass	6 ♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♡ by South

SOUTH has a tough decision after the two Control-showing bids.

If he uses Blackwood and NORTH shows two Aces he will be no better off, because he won't know if one

of the Aces is the useless ♠A. Based on knowing that NORTH holds the

◆

A,

he bids 6

♥

, hoping that he can at least make that and that 7 isn't a laydown!

Deal 13
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 7
♡ K 3
♦ Q J 9 8 7 4 2
♣ 7 6

♠ 10 9 8 4 3
♡ Q 8 6
♦ 6
♣ J 10 9 2

♠ Q J 5
♡ J 7 5 4 2
♦ 10 5
♣ Q 5 3

♠ K 6 2
♡ A 10 9
♦ A K 3
♣ A K 8 4

10
3   6
21

West	North	East	South
			2 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 NT
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

7 NT by South

NORTH isn't sure just how much he can make, but surely 6

♦

isn't

too much to hope for.

He starts with a Gerber 4♣ and SOUTH shows three Aces.

Hmmm, 5♣ asks for Kings and SOUTH shows three.

Hmm, NORTH can now count all thirteen tricks, so he forgets about the

♦

slam and bids 7 NT.

Deal 14
South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8
♡ J 7 2
◇ 8 5
♣ A K Q 10 9 6

♠ 10 9 4
♡ 10 8 4 3
◇ A J 9 7
♣ 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ 7 6 5 3 2
♡ A 9 5
◇ 10 6 4 2
♣ 2

♠ A K Q
♡ K Q 6
◇ K Q 3
♣ J 8 7 5

11
5 4
20

West	North	East	South
			2 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♡
Pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

4 NT by South

NORTH has 13 points and can contribute six tricks so she figures that twelve tricks will be a slam (dunk).

However, just to make sure the opponents don't take the first two tricks she checks with Gerber.

Uh Oh, missing two Aces she signs off at 4 NT. She could also happily play 5♣, but it

would be tricky to get there. Very tricky.

Deal 15
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 6
♡ K 7 3
◇ K 6
♣ K 10 6 5 3

♠ 4 2
♡ A 5 4 2
◇ Q 10 7 4 2
♣ 9 4

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

♠ J 10 9 8 3
♡ J 10 8
◇ J 5
♣ J 8 2

♠ K 7 5
♡ Q 9 6
◇ A 9 8 3
♣ A Q 7

15
6   4
15

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

4 NT by South

Yes, this has nothing to do with Gerber or Blackwood, but everything to do with smart bidding.

NORTH has a 16 points and SOUTH has 15, 16 or 17. NORTH wants to be in 6 NT if SOUTH has 17,

but merely a Notrump game if she has 15 or 16.

The way to find out is to bid 4 NT - not Blackwood but merely an invitation to bid 6 NT.

In this case, SOUTH has but 15 points and declines the invitation. If her

♥

Q

were changed to the

♥

A she would bid 6 NT and collect her twelve easy tricks.

Deal 16
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q J 4
♡ K 6
♢ K 4
♣ K Q J 10 5

♠ 10 9 5 3
♡ A 8 5 4
♢ 9 6
♣ 9 6 3

N
W   E
S

♠ 2
♡ 10 9 3 2
♢ Q 10 8 7 5 2
♣ 7 4

18
4   2
16

♠ A 8 7 6
♡ Q J 7
♢ A J 3
♣ A 8 2

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 NT by South

When SOUTH opens 1 NT NORTH hopes his hand includes all four Aces so she can bid 7 NT.

So she uses Gerber to find out.

But, when she discovers they are missing an Ace she settles for 6 NT.

Deal 17
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 7 2
♡ K J 5 3
♢ K 7
♣ 7 6 4 2

♠ 6 4 3
♡ 2
♢ 10 9 8 5 4
♣ Q J 9 5

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 10 8 5
♡ 8 7 4
♢ 6 2
♣ 10 8 3

♠ A K
♡ A Q 10 9 6
♢ A Q J 3
♣ A K

7
3 3
27

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♢	Pass	2 ♡
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♡	Pass	7 NT
ALL	Pass		

7 NT by South

Deal 18

Deal 18
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7
♡ K 9
♦ A Q J 10 4
♣ A Q J 7

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

```
        N
    W       E
        S
```

```
    20
  2   4
    14
```

♠ A 6 2
♡ A 10 4
♦ K 7 5
♣ K 8 6 2

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

7 NT by South

NORTH is just shy of a 2♣ opening bid, and when SOUTH shows 13-15 points NORTH

wants to be in a slam.

NORTH cannot use Blackwood because 4 NT would be a natural invitation, but with SOUTH's latest bid

being 2 NT he can use Gerber.

Two Major Aces and two Minor Kings fill the holes in NORTH's hand so he bids 7 NT.

Deal 19
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 5
♡ 7
♦ Q 10 6 5 3
♣ K 10 8 4

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

N
W E
S

♠ 6
♡ K 4
♦ K J 9 7 4
♣ A Q J 9 2

```
    12
  6    8
    14
```

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

5 ♦ by South

SOUTH thinks slam may be possible, so she uses Blackwood.

And that's what Blackwood is really good for - keeping you out of slams when you are

missing two Aces!

Deal 20
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q J 7 3
♡ A J 8 6
♢ 5 3
♣ 8 7

♠ 10 5
♡ 3 2
♢ K 10 9 8
♣ Q 10 9 6 2

N
W E
S

♠ 9 8 6 2
♡ 7 4
♢ Q J 4 2
♣ K J 3

12
5 7
16

♠ K 4
♡ K Q 10 9 5
♢ A 7 6
♣ A 5 4

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

6 ♡ by South

SOUTH knows NORTH has at least five ♠s, and they might provide discards for two or three

of her minor suit losers.

She tries Blackwood and, sure enough, NORTH comes through with two Aces.

Even with all the Aces SOUTH knows there are not enough points for Grand,

so she bids 6

♥

.

Deal 21
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 2
♡ K Q J 7
♢ 6
♣ K Q J 10 9

♠ Q J 10 9 7
♡ 6 4 3
♢ 8 3
♣ 7 5 2

♠ 8 4
♡ 8
♢ K Q J 10 7 5 2
♣ 8 6 3

N
W E
S

♠ K 5 3
♡ A 10 9 5 2
♢ A 9 4
♣ A 4

16
3   6
15

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♡
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♢	Pass	5 NT
Pass	7 ♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

7 ♡ by South

When NORTH answers Blackwood with one Ace SOUTH decides to bid 5 NT to ask for Kings.

With two Kings, NORTH would bid 6

♥

.

But she knows that if she does so, SOUTH might stop right there.

Knowing the 5 NT bid guarantees all four Aces, NORTH figures her ♣ suit will

supply five tricks so she bids 7

♥

.

Deal 22
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7
♡ Q 9 7 4
♢ K Q 5
♣ A 10 8 3

♠ J 6 2   ♠ 10 9 4 3
♡ K 10 8 3   ♡ —
♢ J 7 3 2   ♢ A 10 9 8 4
♣ 9 2   ♣ 7 6 5 4

11
5 4
20

♠ A K Q 5
♡ A J 6 5 2
♢ 6
♣ K Q J

West	North	East	South
			1 ♡
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♢	Pass	5 ♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5 ♡ by South

SOUTH thinks there might be slam if NORTH holds both minor Aces, so he tries Blackwood.

When NORTH shows just one Ace SOUTH is afraid he will have a trump loser as well, so

he stops at 5

♥

.

It turns out that SOUTH might make twelve tricks, depending on the

♥

K situation.

Deal 23
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 4 2
♡ A Q J 8 7 4 2
◇ K
♣ K 3

♠ 7 3
♡ 10
◇ J 10 9 8 5 4
♣ Q J 8 5

N
W E
S

♠ Q 10 9 8 5
♡ 9 6 3
◇ 7 3
♣ 10 6 2

16
4   2
18

♠ A J 6
♡ K 5
◇ A Q 6 2
♣ A 9 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1 ◇
Pass	1 ♡	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♡
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

7 NT by South

NORTH might be tempted to blast into Blackwood with his first bid, pushing toward some slam

in

♥

s. He chooses to temporize with a 1

♥

response and is rewarded when SOUTH jumps to 2 NT (18-19 points).

The Notrump bid prevents NORTH from using Blackwood, but Gerber 4♣ will work just fine.

When he discovers that SOUTH holds three Aces and one King he can count thirteen tricks.

Deal 24
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A K
♡ K Q 4
♢ K Q J 3
♣ K Q J 5

♠ 9 8 7 4 2
♡ J 8 5
♢ 8 4
♣ 9 7 2

```
        N
    W       E
        S
```

♠ J 10 5
♡ 9 6 3 2
♢ A 10 7 6
♣ 4 3

24
1   5
10

♠ Q 6 3
♡ A 10 7
♢ 9 5 2
♣ A 10 8 6

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 NT by South

SOUTH responds 2 NT, showing 8+ points with no 5-card suit.

NORTH only needs to know how many Aces are in the SOUTH hand. He must use Gerber since

4 NT in this situation would not be Blackwood.

When SOUTH shows two Aces NORTH bids 6 NT.