

**Deal 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 10 8 3

♥ A J 4

♦ A 10

♣ 9 6 2

♠ 5

♥ 10 3 2

♦ 9 6 2

♣ A J 10 8 7 4



♠ 7 2

♥ 9 8 7 6

♦ 8 5 4 3

♣ K Q 5

♠ A K 9 6 4

♥ K Q 5

♦ K Q J 7

♣ 3

12  
5 5  
18

*West**North**East**South*

1 ♠

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

6 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by North

NORTH has a minimum 1<sup>st</sup> opening bid - 13 points and five trumps. She doesn't even suspect

what's about to befall!

SOUTH hears the 1<sup>st</sup> bid and all he wants to know is whether NORTH has one, two or three Aces.

So he uses the Blackwood convention, 4 NT.

NORTH has two Aces so she bids 5

5<sup>th</sup>

(5<sup>th</sup> would show zero Aces,

5

5<sup>th</sup>

would show one Ace, etc).

SOUTH has heard enough and bids 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Deal 2**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ Q 8 5  
♥ 9 4  
♦ J 9 8 5 2  
♣ K Q 2

9  
8 8  
15

♠ A 7 4  
♥ Q 5  
♦ K 7 6 4  
♣ 7 6 5 3



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

♠ K J 10 9 3  
♥ J 10 3  
♦ Q  
♣ J 10 8 4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	1 NTPASS3H	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

SOUTH has an above-minimum strength hand with a good 6-card suit. He opens 1

â™Ÿ

.

NORTH, with 9 points, is a little too weak to bid at the 2-level so she bids a catchall 1 NT.

SOUTH shows his 6-card suit and extra strength by jumping to 3

â™Ÿ

, which

NORTH raises to 4

â™Ÿ

since two trumps is now adequate support.

**Deal 3**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9  
 ♥ K J 5 2  
 ♦ Q 10 9 8 4  
 ♣ J 10 3

14  
 7 11  
 8

West

Pass

Pass

2 ♠ by North

♠ K Q 7 4

♥ 8 3

♦ 7 6 2

♣ A K Q 2



♠ J 10 8 3

♥ A Q 7 4

♦ J 5 3

♣ 7 6

North

1 ♣

1 ♠

Pass

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

2 ♠

NORTH has 14 points and opens her 4-card ♠ suit.

SOUTH must respond, and with two 4-card Majors bids them "up-the-line", saying 1

♠

.

NORTH now shows his 4-card ♥ suit, and SOUTH again must bid. Since SOUTH is pretty weak he just

raises to 2♥, which NORTH happily passes.

**Deal 4**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 3 2

♥ 9 2

♦ 9 5 4

♣ A 7 4

15  
5 3  
17

*West*

Pass

Pass

6 NT by South

♠ A 9 4

♥ A 7

♦ K 8 3

♣ K J 9 6 2

♠ K Q 7

♥ K Q J 3

♦ A 10 6

♣ Q 10 8

*North*

4 NT

Pass

*East*

Pass

Pass

*South*

1 NT

6 NT

SOUTH has a maximum 17 point 1 NT bid.

NORTH, with 16 points, can't tell if there are enough points for slam. If SOUTH has

17 points then a slam should be makeable, but if SOUTH has only 15 points then he

should settle for game.

The 4 NT raise solves the problem. It tells SOUTH to bid 6 NT with 17 points, pass

with 15 points, and use best judgment with 16. Here SOUTH bids the slam.

**Deal 5**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

12  
7 10  
11

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



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

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 ♠ by North			

SOUTH has just 11 points, not enough to open the bidding.

But when NORTH opens 1<sup>st</sup> SOUTH should show her "almost opening strength"

by jumping to 3<sup>rd</sup>.

NORTH has just 13 points, and knowing SOUTH has less than 13 he passes.

**Deal 6**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

9  
8 9  
14

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



♠ 10 8 2  
♥ A K 7 5 3  
♦ K Q 5  
♣ Q 6

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

After SOUTH opens with 1

â™Ÿ

, NORTH has a small "dilemma".

With 11 points she really is only strong enough to make a jump raise to 3

â™Ÿ

.

But, with five trumps the hand deserves more. So she just bids 4

â™Ÿ

instead.

Usually, no matter what your strength, when you have five cards in the Major suit that your partner opens

with you should just jump right to game.