Deal 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8 3
♡ A 7
♦ K J 9 6 4
♣ Q J 5

♠ 10 5 2
♡ 6 5
♦ 10 8 7 3 2
♣ A 9 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 7 6
♡ J 10 8 4 3
♦ —
♣ 7 6 4 3

15
4 3
18

♠ K J 4
♡ K Q 9 2
♦ A Q 5
♣ K 10 8

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

6 NT by North

With balanced distribution and 16 points NORTH should open 1 NT rather than 1

â™¦

.

SOUTH's response is based on simple math. He adds his 18 points to the 15 minimum that NORTH has announced and

comes up with 33 points combined. This is enough for a small slam, and since he has balanced distribution

he bids 6 NT.

Deal 2
North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 10 9 6
♡ A 7
◊ A Q 6
♣ A K 7

♠ 8 3
♡ J 8 5 4 3
◊ K J 9
♣ J 4 2

```
      N
    W   E
      S
```

♠ A 7 5 2
♡ K 9 2
◊ 10 7 4
♣ 10 6 3

20
6   7
  7

♠ K 4
♡ Q 10 6
◊ 8 5 3 2
♣ Q 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 NT by South

NORTH is right at the maximum for a 1♠ opening bid - one more point and he would

have opened 2♣.

SOUTH does not have 3-card ♠ support but with 7 points must make some response.

She cannot bid at the 2-level so she says 1 NT (6-10 points).

NORTH is fine with Notrump so he bids 3 NT.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

North
♠ Q J 10 8 3
♡ A J 4
◇ A 10
♣ 9 6 2

West
♠ 5
♡ 10 3 2
◇ 9 6 2
♣ A J 10 8 7 4

East
♠ 7 2
♡ 9 8 7 6
◇ 8 5 4 3
♣ K Q 5

South
♠ A K 9 6 4
♡ K Q 5
◇ K Q J 7
♣ 3

```
        N
    W       E
        S
```

```
    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 1â™ opening bid - 13 points and five trumps. She doesn't even suspect

what's about to befall!

SOUTH hears the 1â™ 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

â™Ұ

(5â™£ would show zero Aces,

5

â™¦

would show one Ace, etc).

SOUTH has heard enough and bids 6â™ .

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♡
Pass	1 NT	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

♡

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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

♡

, which

NORTH raises to 4

♡

since two trumps is now adequate support.

Deal 5
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 7 4
♥ 8 3
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A K Q 2

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

```
       N
    W     E
       S
```

14
7 **11**
8

♠ J 10 8 3
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ J 5 3
♣ 7 6

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

2♠ by North

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

♥

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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.