**Deal 1**

North Deals
None Vul

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

| ♠ 5 | | ♠ 7 2 |
|---|---|---|
| ♡ 10 3 2 | N | ♡ 9 8 7 6 |
| ◇ 9 6 2 | W    E | ◇ 8 5 4 3 |
| ♣ A J 10 8 7 4 | S | ♣ 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♠ opening bid - 13 points and five trumps. She doesn't even suspect

what's about to befall!

SOUTH hears the 1♠ 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♣ would show zero Aces,

5

♦

would show one Ace, etc).

SOUTH has heard enough and bids 6♠ .

**Deal 2**
East Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 10 9 3
♡ J 10 3
◇ Q
♣ J 10 8 4

|   | N |   |
|---|---|---|
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

♠ 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

8

9  15

8

♠ Q 8 5
♡ 9 4
◇ J 9 8 5 2
♣ K Q 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       | 1♡   | Pass  |
| 1 NT | PASS 3H Pass | 3♡ | Pass |
| 4♡   | Pass  | Pass | Pass  |

4♡ by East

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

♥

.

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

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

♥

, which

WEST raises to 4

♥

since two trumps is now adequate support.

**Deal 3**
South Deals
None Vul

```
            ♠ J 10 8 3
            ♡ A Q 7 4
            ◊ J 5 3
            ♣ 7 6
♠ A 6 5 2              ♠ 9
♡ 10 9 6      N       ♡ K J 5 2
◊ A K       W   E     ◊ Q 10 9 8 4
♣ 9 8 5 4     S       ♣ J 10 3
            ♠ K Q 7 4
    8       ♡ 8 3
  11  7     ◊ 7 6 2
    14      ♣ A K Q 2
```

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       |      | 1 ♣   |
| Pass | 1 ♡   | Pass | 1 ♠   |
| Pass | 2 ♠   | Pass | Pass  |
| Pass |       |      |       |

2 ♠ by South

SOUTH has 14 points and opens her 4-card ♣ suit.

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

♡

.

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

raises to 2♠, which SOUTH happily passes.

**Deal 4**
West Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8 6 3 2
♡ 9 2
◊ 9 5 4
♣ A 7 4

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

♠ 10 5
♡ 10 8 6 5 4
◊ Q J 7 2
♣ 5 3

```
      5
  17     15
     3
```

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 NT | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 6 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

6 NT by West

WEST has a maximum 17 point 1 NT bid.

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

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

should settle for game.

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

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