

ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS

LAST REVISED ON FEBRUARY 6, 2014

1. **a) 4♥ (fast arrival):** You have a minimum opening hand with no interest in a slam. If North has the necessary strength, North can continue the quest for a slam.
- b) 4NT (Blackwood asking for Aces):** You have 20 declarer points so you know a slam is possible. Given controls in all four suits, all you need to know is the number of Aces in North's hand. With one, stop at 5♥, if two bid 6♥, and if three go for a grand slam.
- c) 3♠ (slow arrival control-showing):** You should not use Blackwood with a void. Show the spade control and hope that partner bids a club control to cover your uncontrolled suit.
2. **a) 4♦ (shows control):** Partner's 4♣ was a slow arrival control-showing bid. You should cooperate.
- b) 4NT (Blackwood asking for Aces):** You have 20 dummy points so a slam is a good possibility. Your partner probably has the ♣A but the control might be a singleton or a void. You already have first-round or second-round control in all of the suits. There is no point in giving opponents more information by showing controls in other suits. But you need to know if partner has enough Aces to make the slam.
- c) 4♦ (shows control):** Because you can support hearts, your void is a first-round control. You should not initiate Blackwood with a void.
3. **a) PASS:** Because partner skipped over diamonds and hearts, you know you are missing two Aces and do not have a first or a second-round control in diamonds. You must settle for the game.
- b) 4NT (Blackwood asking for Aces):** Your partner has shown the control you need to cover your uncontrolled heart suit. Now you just need to know if partner has at least one Ace to go for the slam.
- c) 5♥ (shows two Aces):** Partner must have controls in diamonds and hearts and just needs to know if the partnership has the necessary Aces to go for a slam.

4. a)			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

4. b)			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

4. c)			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

4. a) 2-Over-1 Auction:

- **South opens 1♠** (*invitational, five-card major*): Describes a hand with 13-21 declarer points and at least five spades.
- **North responds 2♥** (*marathon, 2-Over-1*): Describes a hand with at least 13 points and at least five hearts.
- **South rebids 3♥** (*slow arrival, forcing¹*): Describes a hand with at least three hearts, agrees on hearts as the trump suit, and shows some additional strength.
- **North replies 3♠** (*control-showing, forcing¹*): Describes either a first or a second-round control in spades. North should not initiate Blackwood with the uncontrolled diamond suit.
- **South rebids 4♦** (*control-showing, forcing¹*): Describes either a first or second-round control in diamonds.
- **North rebids 4NT** (*artificial, Blackwood question*): Now that North knows the partnership has first or second-round control in all of the suits, North asks for Aces.
- **South answers 5♥** (*artificial, Blackwood answer*): Shows two Aces.
- **North bids 6♥** (*sign-off*): Missing one Ace, North settles for the small slam.

b) 2-Over-1 Auction:

- **South opens 1♠** (*invitational, five-card major*): Describes a hand with 13-21 declarer points and at least five spades.
- **North responds 2♥** (*marathon, 2-Over-1*): Describes a hand with at least 13 points and at least five hearts.
- **South rebids 3♥** (*slow arrival, forcing¹*): Describes a hand with at least three hearts, agrees on hearts as the trump suit, and shows some additional strength.

South has very little additional strength and does not have controls in the unbid suits. South could bid a fast arrival 4♥. But in most cases, opener should go slow and let responder decide if the partnership should look for a slam.

ALTERNATE BIDDING FAST ARRIVAL			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- **North rebids 4NT** (*artificial, Blackwood question*): North has first or second-round controls in all of the suits so the only question is the location of the missing first-round controls. North asks for a count of Aces.
- **South answers 5♥** (*artificial, Blackwood answer*): Shows two Aces.
- **North rebids 5NT** (*artificial, Blackwood question*): The partnership has Aces in all four suits. If South has both missing Kings a grand slam is possible.
- **South answers 6♣** (*artificial, Blackwood answer*): Shows zero Kings.
- **North bids 6♥** (*sign-off*): Missing two Kings, North settles for the small slam.

¹ After a 2-Over-1 response, all bids below game level are forcing.

c) 2-Over-1 Auction:

- **South opens 1♥** (*invitational, five-card major*): Describes a hand with 13-21 declarer points and at least five hearts.
- **North responds 2♦** (*marathon, 2-Over-1*): Describes a hand with at least 13 points and at least four diamonds.
- **South rebids 2♥** (*forcing¹*): Describes a hand with at least six hearts.
- **North replies 4♥** (*fast arrival, sign-off*): Describes a hand with minimal strength and at least two hearts.

A responder with a minimal hand should usually use fast arrival when agreeing on a trump suit. An opener with anything above a minimum hand should usually use slow arrival when agreeing on a trump suit and let responder decide if the partnership should look for a slam.

- **South rebids 4NT** (*artificial, Blackwood question*): Given a nine card heart fit and first or second-round controls in all of the suits, South knows that the partnership should be able to make a 5♥ contract. So there is little risk to finding out if partner has at least two of the missing Aces.
- **North answers 5♥** (*artificial, Blackwood answer*): Shows two Aces.
- **South bids 6♥** (*sign-off*): Missing one Ace, South settles for the small slam.

¹ After a 2-Over-1 response, all bids below game level are forcing.