

The Foundation System

Part II. System Practice: Slam Bidding

REVIEW

This chapter will provide practice in using the mechanisms for bidding (and avoiding) slams described in the Slam Bidding chapter of Part I. These include:

The Artificial Forcing 2C Opening: With 2D as a game force with an ace, a king and a queen, or three queens, and no slam aspirations, 2H as a non-forcing super-negative with less, and all higher bids natural (or optionally transfers) with some hopes for slam.

Slam Cue-Bidding: Based on Lindsay's Law that two aces are required to make the initial cue-bid, with up-the-line cue-bidding of aces and then kings to follow.

Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKC): With 4NT as RKC when a major suit is agreed, and 4 of the minor as RKC when a minor is agreed. We assume the standard 0314 responses: the first step shows 0 or 3 KCs, the second step shows 1 or 4 KCs, the third step shows 2 KCs without the queen of the agreed suit, and the fourth step shows 2 KCs with the queen. Our structure makes the 1430 responses popularized by Eddie Kantar unnecessary, but they can be used optionally by partnership agreement.

Exclusion RKC: An RKC modification in which an unusual jump (usually a double jump) in an unbid suit asks partner to exclude the ace of that suit in counting the number of keycards to show.

In addition to the above slam-specific methods, the complete bidding structure described in all of the preceding chapters is part of our slam-bidding machinery. In that sense, while the earlier practice bidding chapters included lots of short quizzes, this chapter might better be described as a final examination.

Instead of our usual quiz format, we will present pairs of East-West hands which you can bid with your favorite partner. Print the hands and cut apart the East hands for your partner to bid. If your partner is unavailable, you can try writing down all of the East bids, then wait a day or so to give yourself a chance to forget the hands, write down all of West's responses, wait again and write down all of East's next bids, and keep repeating this process until you have reached the final contract in all of the hands. Do not fall into the trap of bidding slam on every hand. These are all hands involving slam decisions, but sometimes the right decision is to stop short of slam.

The Discussion section will show the auctions my daughter and I produced, using the methods described in this book (usually strict Foundation system but sometimes our recommended alternatives), with annotations, which attempt to show the thinking which led to each bid made. These hands are taken from the popular Challenge the Champs series in *The Bridge World* magazine. We are grateful for their permission to use them here, and recommend their magazine highly as part of your continuing bridge education. See <http://www.bridgeworld.com> for subscription information.

Slam Bidding Exam:

| # | Dlr | Vul | West (Your Hand) | | | | East (Partner's Hand) | | | |
|------|-----|------|------------------|---------|--------|------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|----------|
| (1) | W | Both | KJ85 | 4 | A6 | □ KJ9632 | AQ642 | Q1063 | Q8 | □ A7 |
| (2) | N | EW | K | Q7 | AKJ876 | □ 9875 | AQ10976 | AKJ8 | Q95 | □ |
| (3) | W | Both | A9 | 53 | 10742 | □ AJ873 | KQ2 | K94 | AKQ853 | □ 6 |
| (4) | N | None | Q842 | KJ106 | J | □ 8543 | AK973 | AQ94 | 3 | □ AK6 |
| (5) | N | EW | AKJ43 | | 75 | □ QJ10642 | Q106 | A8764 | A9 | □ AK8 |
| (6) | E | NS | Q104 | 76 | K63 | □ Q9863 | AK | AK8 | A75 | □ AKJ72 |
| (7) | S | EW | A5 | A103 | AK2 | □ A8654 | K873 | Q | 1064 | □ KQ972 |
| (8) | E | EW | K | A10972 | AKQ6 | □ K75 | AQJ2 | K83 | 754 | □ J62 |
| (9) | N | NS | AKQ7 | KQ8 | A63 | □ AJ2 | J1064 | AJ9765 | | □ 954 |
| (10) | N | EW | A | AKJ1092 | KJ95 | □ Q4 | KQ9654 | Q5 | 62 | □ AK2 |
| (11) | E | Both | 72 | Q | AQ98 | □ QJ8654 | A96 | J5 | KJ104 | □ AK93 |
| (12) | S | EW | K542 | KJ93 | K7 | □ K93 | Q873 | A4 | AQJ82 | □ A2 |
| (13) | N | None | A72 | AK | J10853 | □ K75 | 4 | QJ1076 | A6 | □ AQJ104 |
| (14) | W | None | A52 | J | AKQ108 | □ AQ106 | 108 | A10 | J953 | □ K9875 |
| (15) | N | EW | QJ65 | 3 | AK432 | □ 985 | K72 | A954 | QJ965 | □ A |
| (16) | E | EW | 1086 | A84 | KQ108 | □ 972 | 3 | K65 | AJ96 | □ AK1065 |
| (17) | N | NS | 3 | KJ1065 | KQ1097 | □ 52 | AKJ2 | A | J63 | □ AKQ64 |
| (18) | S | Both | A53 | A6 | 9765 | □ A984 | 4 | J8542 | A | □ KQ7653 |
| (19) | W | None | AKQJ10 | J965 | K6 | □ A3 | 64 | K8 | A1043 | □ KQJ52 |
| (20) | W | Both | AKQ | | AQ93 | □ K86542 | 9872 | Q7643 | K5 | □ Q10 |
| (21) | N | None | | 1064 | K865 | □ AKQ1094 | AKQ1092 | Q | AQJ | □ J65 |
| (22) | E | Both | 92 | KQ10642 | K1873 | □ | A86 | AJ | A6542 | □ 876 |
| (23) | E | NS | AK84 | A987654 | 3 | □ 9 | QJ1097 | KQ | AQ8 | □ K42 |
| (24) | E | NS | K3 | | 10832 | □ J1096543 | AQJ5 | AK542 | A6 | □ K2 |
| (25) | W | None | K | AKQ53 | AKJ3 | □ 876 | A642 | 87 | Q1076 | □ AKQ |
| (26) | N | EW | QJ75 | QJ85 | 65 | □ Q87 | AK9432 | | A43 | □ AKJ10 |
| (27) | N | NS | A86 | K873 | 6 | □ KJ1072 | K7432 | Q | AK8 | □ AQ54 |
| (28) | E | EW | KQ87 | A8 | AQ | □ Q8754 | AJ1094 | K10 | K65 | □ K63 |

Slam Bidding Discussion

(1) **1C/1S/3S/4C/4D/5S/6S/P.** West opens 1C and raises the 1S response to 3S with good trumps and LTC=5. Since East has an opening bid himself, he cue-bids 4C, hears a return cue-bid of 4D, and jumps to 5S to deny the HA and show the SA (Lindsay's Law). With a H singleton and good trump support, West bids the slam, knowing his clubs can be set up as a source of tricks.

(2) **1S/2D/2H/3C/4D/4NT/5C/5S/7D/P.** East opens 1S and rebids 2H over the 2D response. West tries a 4th Suit Forcing 3C and East jumps to 4D RKC and hears a 4NT "2 without" response. Now 5C shows 1 KC missing. West knows East is short in clubs (he's shown at least 5S, 4H & 3D), so bids 5S to show the K, hoping that East will have a club void and be able to bid 7D. Bingo. East has, and does.

(3) **P/1D/3D/4D/4N/6D/P.** Over East's 1D, West shows a limit raise, and East bids 4D instead of trying for 3NT, because of his singleton club. West could pass this with soft values, but likes his aces so gives the "2 without" response. East goes to 6D, and is a bit lucky that West has only 4 cards in the majors. Take full credit if you stopped in 3NT on this one.

(4) **1S/2S/3H/4H/5C/6H/P.** There are two traps here. One is to play in spades instead of hearts. Note that 6H will make if trumps are 32 and they do not lead a heart, by drawing trumps and pitching a diamond on the 5th spade, but 6S has no play. The trap we did not avoid was that we both bid aggressively because of our singleton diamonds. If you stayed out of slam, you outdid us on this one.

(5) **1H/2C/3C/3S/4C/4H/5NT/7C/P.** West responded 2C to East's 1H opening, hoping to be able to bid spades twice, but East raised clubs and went straight to a 4C RKC after West's 3S rebid. Over the 1 KC response, 5NT showed that all KCs were accounted for, but denied the HK. The DK was not denied, since 5D would have shown that 1 KC was missing. West could now count 6 clubs, 2 red aces, and 5S (either naturally, or via a ruff or two) unless East has 3 small spades, and even then if the spade finesse works, so bids 7C. Take extra credit if you reached 7NT!

(6) **2C/2D/2NT/3NT/4NT/6C/6NT/P.** West is not quite strong enough for a slam-try response to East's 2C opening, and bids 3NT over the automatic 2NT rebid to deny any interest in a major suit contract. Now East shows extra strength with an invitational 4NT bid, and with a Q more than needed for his 2D response, West accepts, bidding 6C to offer East a choice between 6C and 6NT. East corrects to 6NT, but knows that West needs the HK and another Q for his 2D response, and at least another Q to accept the 4NT invitation, and so could have bid 7C, which would make unless West has a doubleton SQ. Take extra credit for reaching 7C.

(7) **1C/1S/2D/3C/3H/4C/4H/5S/6C/P.** West opens 1C, rebids 2D over the 1S response to show a strong hand with 5+clubs and a double diamond stopper, and bids 3H when East shows a club fit, fully expecting a 3NT rebid. When East denies interest in NT with 4C, West shows 4 KCs with 4H, and East confirms the 5th KC and the SK with 5S, but West can't find anything extra and settles reluctantly for 6C.

(8) **P/1H/1S/2NT/3H/4D/4S/4NT/5H/P.** With LTC=9, East can't open, but bids 1S when West opens 1H and shows 3-card support after West's 2NT jump. West tries for slam with 4D, presumably denying the CA, and East cooperates by showing the SA. Now West uses 4NT RKC to confirm 2nd round club control, hoping to find "2 with", and gives up when East denies holding the HQ.

(9) **P/2C/2D/2NT/3C/3S/4S/5C/5H/6D/6S/P.** After a routine Stayman auction to 4S, West tried for slam with 5C (optimistic, since East's 2D had denied slam interest) and East cooperated by showing the HA. There was no way to show East's heart length, though, so we missed reaching 7S. No big loss, because a 41 trump split would usually beat it.

(10) **1S/2H/2S/3D/4C/4H/4NT/5C/5D/6H/P.** West showed 6 spades and then used a 4th suit 4C to find that East has 6 hearts and 4 diamonds. Then RKC revealed West's 3 KCs, and 5D showed that 1 KC was missing, so West settled for 6H (not knowing whether East intended to play in hearts or spades) and East passed.

(11) **1NT/2S/3D/4D/4H/4S/5C/6D/P.** After the minor suit Stayman 2S, East could have shown both 4-card minors and the SA with a 3S bid, but with most of his strength in the minors, he chose instead to bid 3D, intending to bid 4C if West rebids 3NT. Now RKC revealed 3 KCs, and 4S confirmed that 1 KC was missing. Now East showed his double fit, and West preferred the diamond slam in order to throw East's major suit losers on his long clubs.

(12) **1C/1D/1NT/2S/3S/4C/4D/4H/5C/5D/5H/5S/P.** East rightly showed his diamonds first and then his spades, and West raised. After West's 5H ended a cue-bidding orgy, East's 5S indicated that he still needed something more from West for slam. This could only be better trumps than he had already shown, so West passed, avoiding a bad slam. Had West's trumps been good enough for slam, in addition to the 3 kings he'd already shown, he would have had a 1NT opening.

(13) **1H/2D/3C/3H/4C/4S/4NT/5C/5NT/6C/6NT/P.** After East's 4C shows slam interest (it's not RKC because hearts had already been agreed), West cooperates with 4S, and RKC reveals West's 3KC. Now 5NT confirms all 5 KCs, and 6C shows the CK. E can count 12 winners off the top and bids the higher-scoring 6NT.

(14) **1D/1NT/3C/3D/3S/4D/4S/6C/7C/P.** After East's 1NT, his 4D bid is merely invitational, but West accepts by showing 4 KCs. Now East has a problem. He'd like to confirm all 5 KCs with a 5NT bid, but can't be sure about the queens of either minor suit, so settles for jumping to 6C, offering a choice of 6C or 6D. West realizes East would hardly do this without the HA and CK, so gambles on 7C, expecting a H ruff to produce an extra trick if played in 7C, but not in 7D.

(15) **1D/1S/1NT/3D/3S/4D/5C/6D/P.** An easy one. East opens 1D and rebids 1NT, then shows 3-card spade support after West jumps to 3D, and shows "2 with" when West follows with RKC. With 1KC missing, West has a comfortable 6D bid, and East passes.

(16) **1C/1D/2D/3C/4D/5D/P.** East's raise to 2D showed 5+clubs with a good hand, but West did not want to encourage a slam via 2H because he lacked a club honor, so compromised with 3C, and then felt that showing "2 with" in response to RKC would be too encouraging because of his terrible shape, so compromised by raising to 5D, denying all slam interest. East, with nothing extra, was happy to pass.

(17) **2C/3C/3D/3H/4D/4S/5C/6D/P.** West's 3C transfer to 3D (not pure System but a recommended variation) enabled him to show both red suits conveniently. He then showed 1 KC. When East's 5C showed 1 KC missing, West bid the slam because he had the DQ that East was obviously worrying about.

(18) **1C/1H/1NT/2D/2S/4C/4D/6C/P.** East used a New Minor Forcing 2D in search of 3-card H support. West declined, but showed a spade stopper, assuming that 3NT was the main target. Now East used RKC, found 3 KCs, and bid the now obvious 6C.

(19) **1S/2C/2S/3NT/6NT/P.** West opened 1S and merely rebid 2S over East's 2C response in order to learn more about East's hand, since 2C guaranteed a rebid. When East confirmed game-forcing strength by jumping to 3NT, West felt confident enough to bid 6NT directly. He knew that East would have taken a slower route if he had significantly more than opening bid strength, and so did not seriously consider investigating the grand.

(20) **1C/1H/2D/2H/2S/3C/3S/4S/5C/P.** Over West's 2D reverse, East had no good bid, so settled for rebidding that moth-eaten heart suit, and showed 2-card club support over West's probable 3-card 2S bid. When West rebid his spades, East suspected 4045 shape, so raised to 4S, but West wanted none of that and retreated to 5C. East, sure that his HQ was a wasted asset, was happy to pass.

(21) **1S/2C/3D/4D/5C/5H/6C/P.** East opened 1S and over 2C he jumped in his 3-card diamond suit in order to create a game force. Over West's 4D RKC, East showed "2 with" and 5H showed that 1KC was missing. Now the only question was which small slam to play. East tried 6C, expecting to convert 6D to 6S if necessary, but West was content in 6C and passed happily.

(22) **1D/1H/1NT/4C/4D/5D/6D/7D/P.** West's double jump to 4C was EKC, and 4D showed 0 or 3 KCs outside the club suit. West could not be sure which, so signed off in 5D. When East went on to 6D, West knew it was 3 KCs, and bid the grand slam.

(23) **1S/2NT/3S/4NT/5D/5H/6S/P.** East opened 1S and showed slam interest with no short suit with his 3S response to the 2NT forcing 4-card spade raise. West went straight to RKC, and 5H over the 5D response confirmed that 1KC was missing, so we subsided happily in 6S.

(24) **1H/3C/5C/P.** West showed a weak jump shift with 3C over East's 1H opening, and East gave up all thought of slam and settled for 5C, not at all sure that even that contract could be made, but unwilling to settle for a partscore with his monstrous hand.

(25) **1H/1S/3D/4D/4H/5C/7D/P.** West opened 1H and jumped to 3D over 1S to establish a game force. East's 4D showed 4-card support and elicited a 3 KCs 4H RKC response. East's 5C confirmed that all 5 KCs were held, and showed the CK, so West went straight to 7D, which will be cold unless trumps break 50.

(26) **1S/1NT/3C/4S/6S/P.** An unorthodox auction. West obviously could have bid 2S, but elected to start with a forcing 1NT to dampen partner's enthusiasm because of the total lack of an ace or king. When East jumped to 3C, West had to bid 4S to show that his spades were better than partner expected. East assumed that he had a 3-card limit raise and jumped to 6S, since there was no hope for 7S after the 1NT response.

(27) **1S/2C/4C/4S/6C/P.** East opened 1S and went straight to 4C RKC over the 2C response. When West showed "2 without", East went straight to 6C, thus avoiding the 6S trap by not giving West an opportunity to show his 3-card support. The HK provides a discard for the spade loser.

(28) **1S/2NT/4S/4NT/5D/5S/P.** Unlike #23, East has a minimum 5332 and shows lack of slam interest over the 2NT forcing raise by rebidding 4S. West tries RKC anyway with his big hand, but the 1KC response alerts him to the danger of two club losers, and he subsides in 5S, which East is happy to pass.