



## Controls

### Controls are used when a slam seems possible and before the Blackwood

The principles :

- A suit is controlled when there is no (or maximum 1) trick to lose on a lead in this suit.
- Controls are always bid in an economic sequence : skipping one is a control denial.
- When a suit is not controlled (by none of the players) the last player to bid gets back to the trump suit. It's a Stop.
- No Blackwood if a control is missing.



| S    | W    | N   | E    |
|------|------|-----|------|
| 1 ♣  | Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| 3 ♥  | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♣  | Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass |      |     |      |



Exercise E6197 3 ♠ first control

4 ♣ = ♣ control

N doesn't control ♦ (he would name it) ; S neither. The contract is going to be 4 ♥.



## Controls

### Different control types

- A void or a singleton are controls for a trump contract, obviously not in NT.
- Aces and Ks are efficient controls in a trump or NT contract.
- Aces and voids are 1st round controls, singletons and Ks are 2nd round controls

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| A | 5 | 2 | Q | 9 | 4 | A | 3 | A | 10 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | ♣ | ♣ | ♦ | ♦  | ♦ | ♦ | ♦ |

  

| S    | W    | N   | E    |
|------|------|-----|------|
| 1 ♥  | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♣  | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 3 ♠  | Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♣ | Pass |
| 5 ♦  | Pass | 6 ♥ | Pass |
| 7 ♥  |      |     |      |

  

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | Q | 4 | A | K | J | 8 | 2 | K | Q | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | ♣ | ♣ | ♣ | ♣ | ♦ |

Exercise E6224

3 ♠ = control

4 ♣ = control

4 NT = Blackwood

5 ♣ 3 or 0 key

5 ♦ "collante" to check if the partner holds the Q.



## Controls

### When is a bid a control bid ?

With a fit, when a trump suit has been clearly agreed, and when naming a new suit is going above game level.

Or when the pair strength is well defined and high enough to think of a slam.



| S    | W    | N    | E    |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1 ♣  | Pass | 1 ♦  | Pass |
| 3 ♣  | Pass | 3 ♦  | Pass |
| 4 ♦  | Pass | 4 ♥  | Pass |
| 4 ♠  | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 5 ♣  | Pass | 7 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |      |      |



Exercise E6293

4 ♦ showing a fit

4 ♥ = ♥ control

4 ♠ = control

S has shown the missing control... N goes for the Blackwood : 4 NT. 5 ♣ : 3 keys



## Controls

### Getting back to the trump suit

may mean :

- a slam denial because a control is missing
- a lack of the following control



| S    | W    | N  | E    |
|------|------|----|------|
| 1♥   | 2♣   | 2♦ | Pass |
| 3♥   | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4♦   | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| Pass |      |    |      |



Exercise 6633 4♥ : N has initiated the slam bids sequence, but has no ♠ control. S hasn't got it neither.. no slam. S would have bid 4 NT (Blackwood) if he had had the control.



| S  | W    | N    | E    |
|----|------|------|------|
|    |      |      | 1♦   |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2♥   | 3♣   |
| 4♣ | 5♣   | Pass | Pass |
| 5♥ |      |      |      |



Exercise E6642 N hasn't got ♦ control (he would have bid it !) : the contract to be played is 5♥.