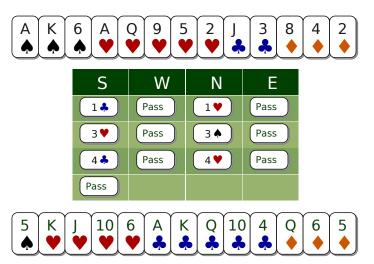


# Controls are used when a slam seems possible and before the Blackwood

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.



Exercise E6197 3 ♠ first control

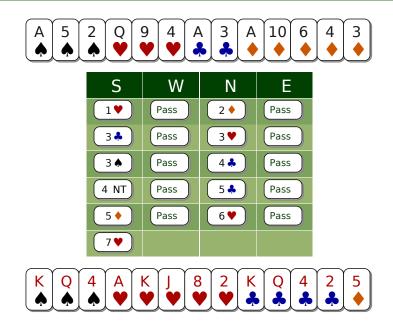
4 ♣ = ♣ control

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



# **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



Exercise E6224

3 ♠ = control

4 ♣ = control

4 NT = Blackwood

5 🌲 3 or 0 key

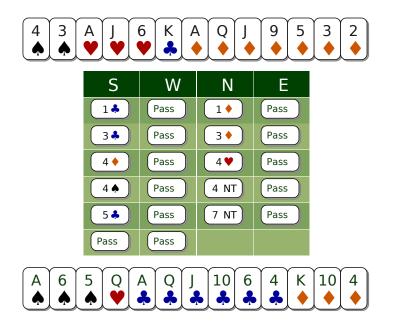
5 ♦ "collante" to check if the partner holds the Q.



### 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.



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

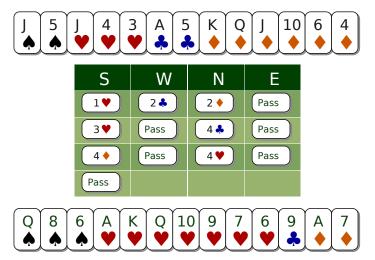




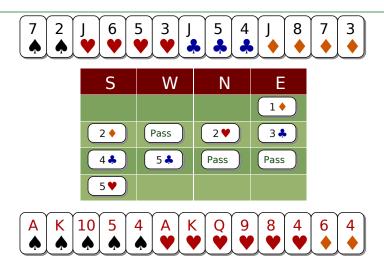
# Getting back to the trump suit

### may mean:

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



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 bd 4 NT (Blackwood) if he had had the control.



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