

Roman Key Card Blackwood – Part 2

(Friday mini-lesson – 9 August 2019)

See previous lesson (Part 1) for a full description of Roman Key Card Blackwood, including the Queen Ask, and the King Ask. Today we'll just focus on ten specific examples of RKCB in use.

First a quick review of the main points.

Responses RKCB 1430 (4NT)

The responses **include the king of trumps as a fifth ace**

5♣ - 1 or 4, 5♦ - 0 or 3, 5♥ - 2 (or 5) **without** the queen of trumps, 5♠ - 2 (or 5) **with** the queen of trumps (**or its equivalent** – e.g. a 5-card suit implying a probable 10-card fit)

Queen Ask

Following 5♣ or 5♦ response, where the location of the trump queen may still be unknown, a bid of the next suit up [**not** the trump suit] is the queen-ask.

The responses to the queen ask are:

Without trump queen, bid the agreed trump suit at the lowest level.

With trump queen, bid 5NT with no outside king.

With trump queen and another **king**, bid the suit containing the king.

Examples (North the opening bidder):

(The bidding sequences take a simplistic approach up to the 4NT bid. Better sequences are available by way of cue bids etc. The examples concentrate solely on the use of RKCB 1430).

Hands

	a)	b)	c)	d)	e)
N.	♠ A ♥ A87654 ♦ K6 ♣ AK87	♠ AJ1098 ♥ Q ♦ KQ3 ♣ AK82	♠ AJ1098 ♥ K ♦ KQ3 ♣ AK82	♠ AQ7643 ♥ AKQ7 ♦ 8 ♣ AK	♠ AQ87432 ♥ 9 ♦ AK106 ♣ A
S.	♠ K5 ♥ KJ32 ♦ QJ54 ♣ 652	♠ KQ75 ♥ J1043 ♦ A62 ♣ 54	♠ K7652 ♥ AJ43 ♦ 76 ♣ 54	♠ 1095 ♥ 83 ♦ KQ952 ♣ Q74	♠ 965 ♥ AK854 ♦ 52 ♣ K54

Bidding

a) 1♥ - 3♥ - 4NT (hearts) – 5♣ (1 ace or ♥K) – 6♥

b) 1♠ - 3♠ - 4NT (spades) – 5♠ (2 aces/♠K and ♠Q) – 6♠

- c) Exactly the same sequence as (b). In response, the 5-card spade suit is the equivalent to holding the ♠Q
- d) 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠ - 3♠ - 4NT (spades) – 5♦ (0 or 3, obviously 0) - 5♠. Two key-cards are missing – at best the slam depends on a finesse.
- e) 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♠ - 4♠ - 4NT(spades) - 5♣ (1 or 4, obviously 1) - 6♠. With one key-card missing the grand slam is not attempted.

Further Examples using the Queen Ask and King Ask:

Hands

	f)	g)	h)	i)	j)
	♠ A3	♠ AKJT43	♠ A5	♠ AK752	♠ 8
	♥ AK97	♥ AQJ6	♥ T963	♥ J9764	♥ KQJ9654
N.	♦ 83	♦ 9	♦ A7	♦ A7	♦ KQ82
	♣ AK763	♣ AK	♣ AQ854	♣ A	♣ 5
	♠ KQ954	♠ Q52	♠ 6	♠ 6	♠ A74
	♥ Q652	♥ K87	♥ AK852	♥ AK852.	♥ A7
S.	♦ AJ7	♦ A1062	♦ KQ862	♦ KQ862	♦ A3
	♣ Q7	♣ 1073	♣ K3	♣ 53	♣ A9762

Bidding

- f) 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♥ (reverse) - 4NT (hearts) - 5♣ (1 or 4, but obviously 4) – 6♥. With Ordinary Blackwood the ♥K is concealed - North could be missing ♥K (having ♣J, instead, making the slam less likely).
- g) 2♣ - 2♦ - (negative at this stage, but no other bid) - 2♠ - 3♠ - 4NT (spades) – 5♣ (1 ace or ♠K) - 5♦ (queen ask) - 5♥ (♠Q and ♥K) – 7♠ (If responder had shown the ♦K in response, North would probably settle for 6♠).
- h) 1♣ - 1♥ - 3♥ - 4NT (hearts) - 5♦ (0 or 3) - 5♥ (sign-off opposite none) - 6♥ (confirms three key-cards) – pass
- i) 1♠ - 2♥ - 4♣ (cue, agreeing hearts) - 4NT (hearts) - 5♦ (0 or 3) - 5♥ (sign-off opposite none) – 5♠ (confirms three key-cards, and also ♠K) - 6♥
- j) 4♥ - 4NT - 5♣ (1 or 4) - 5NT (for kings) - 7♥. North knows that South must have all four aces to be asking for kings. If he held ♦KQJx he would bid 7NT, but one diamond may need to be ruffed.