

Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB)

A very popular variant of Blackwood, is to treat the king of trumps as if it were an ace, so there are now *five key cards* you can ask about, instead of just four.

In addition you can often find out if partner has the queen of trumps.

The Five Key Cards are:
Four Aces + King of Trump

In response to a bid of 4NT, partner shows how many key cards he has as follows:

- 5♣ shows zero or three key cards
- 5♦ shows one or four key cards
- 5♥ shows two or (rarely) five key cards, without the queen of trumps
- 5♠ shows two or (rarely) five key cards, with the queen of trumps

*If no suit has been agreed **the last suit bid** is assumed to be the trump suit*

If partner determines that all five key cards are present he can bid 5NT to ask about the other three kings:

- 6♣ shows zero kings
- 6♦ shows one king
- 6♥ shows two kings
- 6♠ shows three kings

DLR: West		W	N	E	S
		1♥	P	2♦	P
		2♥	P	4NT	P
		5♠	P	6♥	P
		P	P		
♠ J 9 2 ♥ K Q J 6 5 ♦ A 8 ♣ J 8 7 (12 pts)	N W E S	♠ A K Q ♥ A 10 9 7 ♦ K Q J 10 7 ♣ 2 (19pts)			

DLR: West		W	N	E	S
		1♥	P	2♠	P
		3♠	P	4NT	P
		5♥	P	5NT	P
		6♦	P	7♠/7NT	P
♠ K 8 4 3 ♥ Q J 10 6 5 ♦ A 8 ♣ K 8 (13 pts)	N W E S	♠ A Q J 10 9 2 ♥ A 2 ♦ K Q J 10 ♣ A (21pts)			

If your partner responds 5♣ (0 or 3) or 5♦ (1 or 4) a new suit by you (other than the trump suit), is an enquiry about the queen of trumps.

DLR: West		W	N	E	S
		2NT	P	3♣	P
		3♥	P	4NT	P
		5♣	P	5♦	P
		5♠	P	6♥	P
		P	P		
♠ A 8 7 ♥ A Q 7 5 ♦ K Q 10 8 ♣ A Q (21 pts)	N W E S	♠ K Q J 9 ♥ K 10 9 2 ♦ 7 ♣ K 9 4 3 (12pts)			

In Direct Response to an opening 1NT or 2NT, 4NT is not Blackwood or RKCB, but quantitative (invitational). In all other cases 4NT is RKCB.

DLR: West		W	N	E	S
		2NT	P	4NT	P
		P	P		
♠ A 8 7 ♥ K Q 7 5 ♦ K Q 4 2 ♣ A Q (20 pts)	N W E S	♠ K 10 9 ♥ A J 2 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ K 9 4 3 (12pts)			

Advantages

- Able to find out about the king of trump, and sometimes queen of trump

Disadvantages

- More to remember
- Slight chance you will misinterpret your partner's 5♣ (0 or 3) or 5♦ (1 or 4) bid.

Topics for the next few Tuesdays

- Aug 7th – Gerber
- Aug 14th - Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB)
- Aug 21st - Cue Bids (Control-showing) bids
- Aug 28th - Splinters
- Handouts are available on www.bridgeclass.co.uk/handouts
- More on Splinter Bids Cue Bids, Gerber, RKCB, etc in “Modern Acol Bidding” £10