

Roman Key Card Blackwood

- Bid 4NT to explore the partnership holding of the 4 Aces plus the King of Trumps (known as 5th Ace) and sometimes the Queen of Trumps.
- The agreed Trump suit is usually clear but can be the unsupported last bid suit before the 4NT e.g., 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♥ - 4NT
- Partner Responses after 4NT
 - 5♣ - Zero or three of the “five aces”
 - 5♦ - One or four of the “five aces”
 - 5♥ - Two of the “five aces” no Trump Queen
 - 5♠ - Two of the “five aces” plus the Trump Queen
- How to explore Trump Queen when partner responds 5♣ or 5♦?
 - Bid the next Suit up (5♦ over a 5♣ response and 5♥ over a 5♦ response)
 - Responder bids 5 of the Trump Suit without the Trump Queen, and jumps to 6 with the Trump Queen.
- The Keycard Bidder should be careful that he can cater to any response.
 - As with normal Blackwood, particularly dangerous with clubs as Trumps, or, to a lesser extent, diamonds. NB. Even with Hearts as Trumps, some care is required. (e.g. 1♣ - 1♥ - 3♥, if Bid 4NT and 2 key cards missing, responder may have to bid 5♠ so can't play hearts at the 5 level).